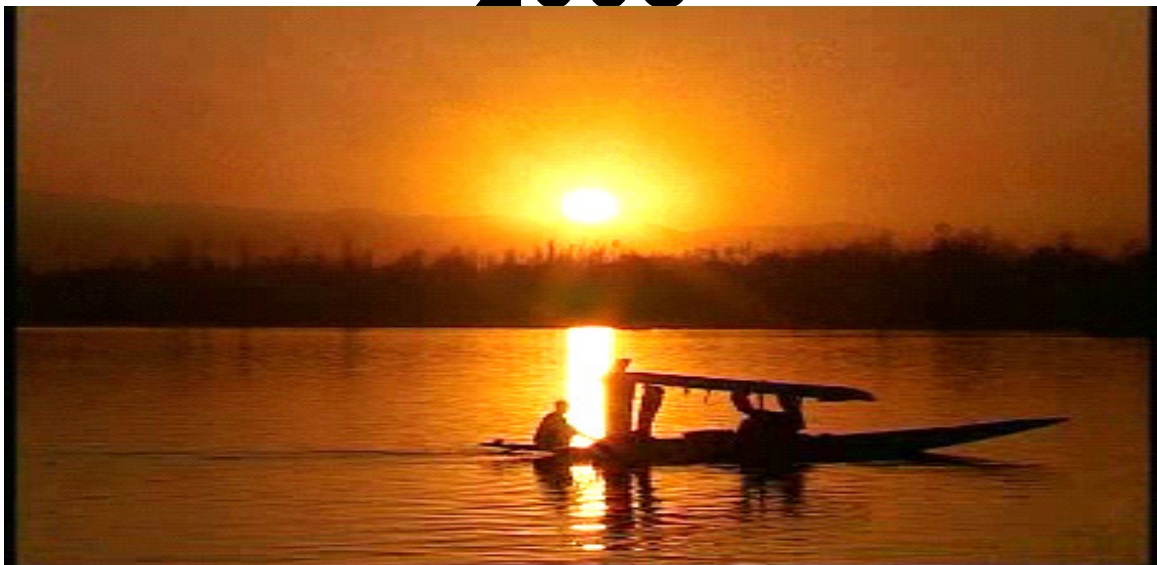


Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Socio-Economic Profile of Jammu & Kashmir 2008



**Directorate of Economics & Statistics
Jammu & Kashmir**

Foreword

It is a matter of privilege for the Directorate of Economics & Statistics to compile the maiden issue of an important, much needed and highly sought after publication titled "Socio-Economic Profile of Jammu And Kashmir-2008". Different from other books available to large sphere of readers both in and outside the State of Jammu and Kashmir, this is the only book containing together all exhaustive information on economy, polity, culture, history and tourism of the state. The background information alongwith latest statistical updates and brief profiles of all the districts including the newly eight ones add more beauty to it. In addition to the above topics including poverty and unemployment, human development, regional imbalances etc. have also been given space to keep the readers abreast of the issues and concerns within the state. Combination of analysis, statistics and information, this book will be of immense use to all kinds of readers be it administrators, scholars, planners, tourists or the student community.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir particularly Kashmir vale needs no introduction to the world. Some call it "Asian Switzerland" and some "Paradise on Earth". The state of Jammu and Kashmir comprising the extreme western sector of Himalayas is land locked. The majestic heights of its snow-capped mountains, gurgling streams, green meadows, enchanting lakes and its picturesque lush green forests offer some of the liveliest scenic beauty spots. Kashmir has been one of the main roots of cultural and commercial intercourse between India and countries to the west including the Middle East. Today the state occupies a strategic place on the country's map with its border touching Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tibet and China. Jammu and Kashmir State is one of the most sparsely populated area in the whole of India. In consonance with the pronounced rural character of the population in the State, the occupational distribution is biased in favour of agriculture. Leaving aside Ladakh which has little vegetation, the State of Jammu and Kashmir is richly endowed with forests. The state is also known to have occurrence of coal, lignite, copper, lead, Zinc, cobalt, limestone, bauxite, borax and precious stones.

The present publication also makes a detailed appraisal of the various resources of the state, and throws light on the key sectors of economy viz; agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries, industry, tourism etc. Besides this, various other aspects of the state viz; Judiciary, Land and people, crafts, cuisine, university/colleges etc. have been given space as well.

Lastly this book has been prepared under a team lead by the undersigned, again with an effort spread over several months. I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the hard work and cooperation rendered by Mr.Imtiyaz Ahmed, Assistant Director and Mr.Manzoor Qadir, Statistical Assistant for this maiden venture.

I Wish you very happy reading.

*(G.A. Qureshi)
Director General,
Economics and Statistics, J&K*
















SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR 2008

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KNOW YOUR LAND & PEOPLE

- The J&K state is the northern most state of India situated between 32.15 degree and 37.05 degree north latitude and 72.35 degree and 83.20 degree east longitude.
- The J&K is the 11th largest state of India having a geographical spread of 101387 SqKms accounting for 3.20% of the total area of the country.
- J&K ranks 19th most populous state of India having a population of 101.44 lac souls (census 2001). The projected population of the J&K state in the year 2007 was 118.72 lacs.
- The literacy rate of J&K is 55.52% with male literacy of 67% and female literacy of 43% (census 2001) and as per BPL survey 2008 the literacy rate of J&K is 64.18 with male literacy of 72.32% and female literacy of 55.35%.
- J&K has a forest area of 20230 SqKms which account of 19.95% of the total geographical area of the state, leaving aside Ladakh which has little vegetation.
- The State of J&K has 22 districts, 71 tehsils, 141 CD blocks, 2690 Panchayats, 6652 villages.
- Rice, maize and wheat are the major cereals of J&K. The Basmati rice of RS Pora Tehsil of district Jammu is world famous for its taste and aroma.
- J&K is largest producer of Apple, Walnut, Almond and many other temperate dry and fresh fruits.
- J&K holds number one position in saffron production in India.
- J&K is a major exporter of superior quality carpets, wooden art, embroiderical clothes and many other valuable crafts.
- Wullar Lake in Kashmir is the largest fresh water lake in Asia.
- Leh air port is the highest altitude airport in India.
- Leh is the largest district of J&K while Shopian is the smallest as per area.
- Jammu district is the most populous district of J&K while Leh is the least populous.
- Kashmiri is the most widely spoken language in J&K which apart from Kashmir Valley is spoken in the districts of Doda, Kishtwar and in many parts of Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu. The other major languages of the state are Dogri, Ladakhi, Goojri, Pahari and Balti.
- J&K has got one International airport at Srinagar.

-  J&K State has 8 Universities and 54 Government Degree colleges.
-  The J&K legislature is bicameral in nature comprising of State legislative assembly and State legislative council. The legislative assembly has strength of 87 seats while the legislative council consists of 36 seats.
-  J&K is the only state which has its own state flag as well as its own constitution.
-  Lotus is the state flower & Chinar is the State tree.
-  Gujjars, Bakerwals and Gaddis are the major nomadic tribes of J&K.
-  Gulmarg Gondola of J&K State is the highest Cable car project in the world.
-  Drass sector of Ladakh region of J&K state is the 2nd coldest place in the world.
-  Ahrabal waterfall in district Kulgam of J&K state is one of the highest waterfalls in Asia.
-  Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar is the most picturesque sporting venue of the country. This golf course is has been declared as the best Golf Course in India and among the top ten in Asia.
-  Estimated Hydro power potential of the state is 20,000 MW out of which only around 2000 MW is realised till date. The Water resources of J&K are just like oil reserves of Arab Countries.
-  The State is connected to the rest of the country through just one highway (NH 1A), 400 Kms stretch (approx) maintained by Border Roads Organization (BRO) of India.
-  Dal Lake is the world famous water body and has been described as Lake Par-Excellence by Sir Walter Lawrence. The Dal Lake is host to world famous Shikaras and Houseboats which vie with each other with eye catching name surrounded by Mughal Gardens.
-  Jama Masjid is one of the oldest and the most spacious of all the mosques in Kashmir, situated in the heart of the city. The area of the mosque is 384 ft X 381 ft spacious enough for over thirty thousand people to offer prayers at a time.
-  The Railway network in J&K State is the highest altitude railway network in India. Presently the railway network in the State exists upto Udhampur district and the rest between Udhampur to Qazigund is under construction. Intra Kashmir railway line from Qazigund to Baramulla is near completion and has been laid open for railway traffic from (Nowgam) Srinagar to Anantnag on 11th October 2008.
-  Tulip Garden in Srinagar is the largest tulip garden of Asia.

J&K STATE AT A GLANCE

Geographical Area in SqKms	222236*
Reported Area in Lac Hectares	24.16
Area irrigated in Lac Hectares	3.06
Area under fruit "000" Hectares	283.08
Cultivable Area 000 Hectares	8.25
Net area Sown	7.42
Forest area in SqKms	20230
Net Area Irrigated in Hectares	313000
No. Of Districts	22
No. Of Tehsils	71
No. Of CD Blocks	141
No. Of Panchayats	2690
No. Of Patwar Halqas	1720(P)
No. Of Villages	6654
No. of Towns (2001 Census)	75
Population Density per SqKm	99
	100 (#)
Sex Ratio (Females/ 1000 Males)	
(2001 Census)	892
(2006 Sex Ratio Survey)	925(.)
No. Of Health Institutions	3698
Literacy rate (2001 Census)	55.52 %
Male	67%
Female	43%
Literacy rate (2007-08 Education Survey)	64.18 % (P)
Population (2001 Census)	10143700
Male	5360926
Female	4782774
Urban	2516638
Rural	7627062
Population (2008 projected)	11192013 (p)
No. of police stations	147
No. of Police Posts	63
No. of Commercial Bank Branches	966
No. of Universities	8
No. of Degree Colleges(Govt/Pvt)	42
No. Of Primary Schools (Govt/Pvt)	(13144 +1667)=14811

No. Of Middle schools (Govt/Pvt)	(5131+1236)=6367			
No. Of High / Higher Secondary Schools (Govt/Pvt)	(1508+721)=2229			
No. of telephone connections	Main	extension		
	366330	794073		
No. of post & Telegraph offices	Head post offices	Sub Post offices	Branch post offices	Telegraph offices
	9	249	1433	180

1. Introduction

Location

Jammu and Kashmir is the north western state of India. The State occupies a strategic place on the country's map with its border touching Pakistan, Tibet and China. The State has three distinct regions comprising Kashmir Valley, Jammu division and Ladakh. Each region has a specific resource base. Except for Jammu and Kathua districts the entire State is a mountainous region and the plateau of Ladakh, flanking the State on the east with lower population density is separated from the rest of the State by high mountain ranges, offers very peculiar problems of development and communication. The land of the State is highly fertile and water resources are also abundant.



Area & Population

The State's geographical spread of 1, 01,387 sq.kms, (excluding area under illegal occupation of Pakistan & China), accounting for 3.20% of total area of the country, makes it the 11th largest state in the country. With 101.44 lakh population, as per census 2001, it ranks 19th state in India and constitutes approximately 1% of the country's population. Density (100 persons per sq.km.) places it to be the 30th populous state of India. The population of the state in 2008 is projected to be 123.66 lakhs. Forest area of the state is 20230 Sqkm which is 19.95% of its geographical area. Among the districts Jammu stands at number one in terms of population and

Leh is the least populous district. District Leh Stands at top with an area of 45100 SqKms while as Shopian is the smallest district having an area of 307 SqKms.

Administrative Setup

No. of Administrative divisions	2	Panchayats	2690
Total number of districts	22	Patwar halqas	1720(P)
Jammu	10	Total Villages	6652
Kashmir	10	In-habited Villages	6417
Ladakh	2	No. of Legislative assembly segments	87
Tehsils	71	Police Stations	147
CD Blocks	141	Police Posts	63

Each Division is headed by a Divisional Commissioner, each District by a Deputy Commissioner and each Tehsil by a Tehsildar for running and managing Local administration. In pre-independence period, Kashmir Division was divided into three Districts viz. Baramulla Known as Kamaz; Srinagar known as Yamraz and Anantnag known as Maraz.

Selected Socio-Economic Indicators of J&K in comparison with All India

Indicator	Unit	J&K		India	
		Reference Year	Magnitude	Reference Year	Magnitude
Geographical Area	Sq. kms	2001	101387*	2001	3166391*
Forest Area as %age	%age	2001	19.95	2001	24.27
Density	Persons/Sq. km.area	2001	100(#)	2001	325(#)
Total Population	Lakhs	2001	101.44	2001	10286.10
	Projected	2008	123.66	2008	11476.77
Decennial growth	% age	1991-01	29.98	1991-01	21.53
Rural population as %age of total population	%age	2001	75.19	2001	72.18
Urban Population as %age of total population	%age	2001	24.81	2001	27.82
Percentage of SC population to total population	%	2001	7.59	2001	16.20
Percentage of ST population.	%	2001	10.96	2001	8.20
Sex Ratio	Females/per 1000 males	2001	892	2001	933.00
		2006	925(.)	-	-
GSDP/GDP at current prices	Rs in Crores	2006-07(A)	29115	2006-07(A)	3717465
Per Capita Income	Rs.	2006-07(A)	24830	2006-07	29069
GSDP/GDP at constant prices	Rs in crs	2006-07(A)	21556	2006-07	2844022
Per Capita Income	Rs.	2006-07(A)	18384	2006-07	22379
Literacy Rate	% age	2001	55.52	2001	64.84
		2004	65.3 ^		
Male Literacy Rate	%age	2001	66.60	2001	75.26
Female Literacy Rate	% age	2001	43.00	2001	53.67
Birth Rate	Per 000 of Pop.	2005	18.9	2005	23.8
Death Rate	-do-	2005	5.5	2005	7.6
Natural growth rate	-do-	2005	13.4	2005	16.3

Infant mortality rate	Per 000 live birth	2005	50	2005	58
Expectation of life at birth	Years	2005	60.5	2005	62.7
Total no. of Districts	No.	April 2007	22	April 2007	612
Tehsil	No	April 2007	71	April 2007	5462
Blocks	No	April 2007	141	April 2007	-
Unemployment Rate	%age	2004	4.21 [^]	2004	3.09..
Area under fruit	000 Hects.	2005-06	267.41(++)	2005-06	5900.00
Road Length per 100 sq. km of area	Kms	2005-06	35.71	2006-07	105.48
Vehicles per lakh of Population	No	March -07	4804	March-04	6739
Plan Expenditure per capita	Rs	2006-07	3662.00	2006-07	3905
BPL Population	%age	2004-05	5.4	2004-05	27.5
Credit Deposit ratio	%age	June 2007	48.86	June 2007	71.80

Source: Digest of Statistics- 2005-06,- 2007-08; Directorate of Economics & statistics, J&K.

* Excluding Area under illegal occupation of Pakistan & China

Density worked on the area excluding Area under illegal occupation of Pakistan & China

(.) Results of the Sex-Ratio Survey conducted by the Directorate of E&S

(++) Rural Development Department Shows only 62000 Hec area under fruit.

[^] As per the Socio-Economic Survey conducted under 60th NSS Round (2004)

2. Flora and Fauna

Flora: Jammu and Kashmir abounds in rich flora (vegetation, forests). The state, described as 'paradise' on earth, is full of many hues of wood and game. The trees present various enchanting colours through the cycle of the seasons among which the autumnal look is breathtaking. The most magnificent of the Kashmir trees is the Chinar found throughout the valley, which grows to gigantic size and girth. Walnut, willow, almond and cedar also add to the rich flora of Kashmir. In Kashmir Valley, the well-marked vegetation is willow (mainly used for "cricket bat" making), which mostly covers the marshy areas. Willow is also found on river banks in Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh Region and in Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar of Jammu region.

Forests: Forests are mainly found where the annual rainfall is about 100 cm. However, scrubs forests are found where rainfall is less than 100 cm. The region wise forest area in percentage is shown below

Region wise Forest area, 2007			
Division	Geographical area in Sqkms	Forest area in sqkms	Forest Area % Sq(Kms)
Kashmir Division	15948	8128	50.96%
Jammu Division	26293	12066	45.89%
Leh & Kargil	59146	36	0.06%
Total J&K State	101387	20230	19.90%

Anantnag district is having the highest area under forest & district Shopian has the lowest area under forest.

Specie-wise Forest Area

S.No.	Forest products	Area sq. kms.	%age of total
(I)	Coniferous		
a)	Deodar	1075	5.32
b)	Chir	1825	9.02
c)	Kail	1969	9.73
d)	Fir	3401	16.81
e)	Others	10075	49.80
	Total Coniferous	18345	90.68
(II)	Non-coniferous un-commercial Reserves	1885	9.32
	Total (I+II)	20230	100.00
	Rakhs & Wildlife reserves	1962	

Plants and Trees of Kashmir

Cradled in the lap of the Himalayas the state of Jammu and Kashmir is particularly rich in flora. Due to the wide variations in topography, the region has a large variety of species. There is no wonder that its flora ranges from the thorn bush type of the arid plains to the temperate and alpine flora of the higher altitudes. Prominent among the trees are maple, horse chestnuts, silver fir, etc. At the higher altitudes there are birch, rhododendron, Berbers and a large number of

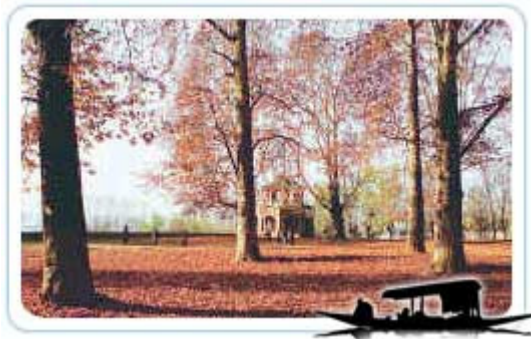


herbal plants.

Undoubtedly the most important of the trees found in Kashmir is the Chinar which is seen throughout the length and breadth of the valley. Whether you visit the gardens of Shalimar or Naseem, Nagin or Nishat, or the parks of Bijbehara or Verinag, Char Chinar or Poshwari or anywhere in the state of Jammu and Kashmir- it is certain that you will find a magnificent, graceful and majestic Chinar called "Booune" in the local language. The size of this tree is gigantic and indeed mind-blowing. It is an enthralling sight to view the Chinar changing its colors differently corresponding to the changing season. During the autumn, the appearance of the tree becomes very spectacular. Mountainous region in the state are covered with dense deodar, fir and pine. Almond, walnut, willow and cider are some of the trees which are the part of the rich flora of Kashmir.

Chinar

Called Booune in the Kashmiri language, the Chinar tree is an integral part of Kashmiri culture. Almost every village in the valley has a Chinar tree. You can experience a cool breeze under the shadow of this majestic tree which is very conducive to health.



It is unfortunate to note that in recent years the number of Chinar trees is decreasing. It is no wonder that if the present trend continues, the day is not far-off when the tree will see its extinction from the land of Kashmir. However, it is heartening to note the government is making its honest best to stop the illegal felling of this great tree of Kashmir.

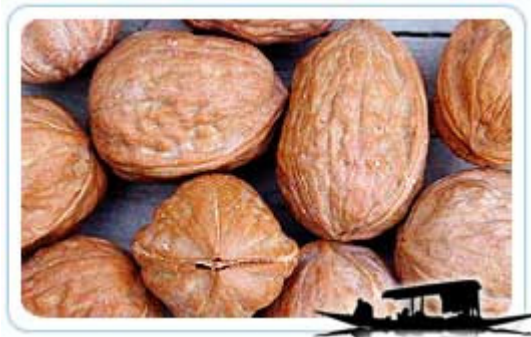
Chinar is a gigantic sized tree, found growing throughout the valley. Its scientific name is *Platanus orientalis*. Its family is *Platanaceae*. A deciduous tree, Chinar traces its origin to Greece. Its incredible beauty has to be seen to be believed. The tree is at its most elegance and exuberance during autumn. Though its majesty can be seen all through the year. Iqbal, the poet of the East, traces the warmth of the Kashmir soil to the "blaze of Chinars it nurses in its bosom".

Chinar grows up to a height of 25 meters and a girth exceeding 50 feet in certain cases. This tree with the largest circumference of 60 feet is located at a village named Chattergam in central Kashmir.

These days conscious efforts are being made to undertake plantation of this tree to other states. The tree has been successfully planted in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun and Meerut. But the size and girth attained in these places are no parallel to those found in Kashmir valley.

Walnut

The walnut belongs to the small order of trees and shrubs known as *Juglandaceae*. Walnut trees are very large, ranging from 50 to 75 feet in height and width. Kashmir revels in reputation in that it is the only region in India where the walnut tree grows. The natural sheen, color and grains are



indeed exceptional and unique. The carving and fret- work done on this wood is of a delight.

Generally two types of walnut trees are found in Jammu and Kashmir- one that bears fruit and is noted for its wood, and another which is not fruit-bearing. The latter is known as 'zangul' in local parlance and is less strong and possesses no grains. In some parts of Kashmir like Rajwar Handwara. Paper walnut known as "Kagzi doon" in local parlance is grown in small areas and being soft, its kernel is considered to be of superior quality. Similarly in pounch district a special variety of walnut known as Peacan nut having small size has been introduced very lately.

The walnut wood is almost black, and the grain here is much more pronounced than the wood of the trunk which is lighter in color.

Black in color, the walnut wood is used for making furniture and carvings. The branches have the lightest color, being almost blonde, and have no noticeable grain. The inherent worth of the wood from each part of the tree differs. The root part is the most expensive and the branches having the lowest price.

Olive

It is grown in small acreages in Ramban, Doda area of Jammu division and Uri in Baramullah District. Two main olive cultivation farms are being run by the State Horticulture Department in Ramban and Salambad Uri. Being of high medicinal value it is highly remunerative fruit of intermediate zone.

Zeera

Zeera is one of the top ten spices used in preparation of Kashmiri wazwan and other local preparations. It is mainly grown in upper reaches of Gurez, Kishtwar and Kargil. The zeera grown in Gurez is of black colour and is considered to be superior to the green one.

Almond Tree

The Almond tree has been referred to by Spenser in the Fairy Queen:

'Like to an Almond tree mounted high,
On top of greene Selinis all alone,
With blossoms brave bedecked daintly;
Whose tender locks do tremble every one
At every little breath that under Heaven is
blown.'

Although the almond tree is native to the Mediterranean region, this beautiful tree has adapted to the climate of Kashmir. Big and shady, these trees grow up to a height of 15m and have large oval leaves tinged with red and fleshy fruits. These fruits turn bright red from green during the mature phase. The fruits of the almond tree are very aromatic and sweet. Almonds are considered the healthiest nuts to eat because they have the highest protein content of any nut. Almonds are also a rich source of calcium and many minerals, such as potassium and phosphorous. Almonds help in lowering cholesterol levels and contain oleic acid, which helps maintain a healthy heart.



There are two types of almond tree: bitter and sweet. Almonds grown in Kashmir tend to be slightly bitter but the sweet ones are imported into India from Afghanistan in great quantities.

The almond in Kashmir is synonymous with romance in Kashmir. Ancient Indian literature depicts heroines as someone having dark almond shaped eyes which symbolize beauty and appeal. The heart suit in a pack of playing cards is often called badam or almond in many Indian languages. The Mughals were great patrons of art and lovers of cuisines. As a matter of fact the almond was introduced into Indian cookery by the Mughals. They also contributed a lot to the increase in the use of the almond motif in textiles, weaving and sculpture.

Pine Trees

The scientific name of Pine tree is genus Pinus. The tree is generally sun-loving and relatively shade-intolerant.

Kashmir abounds with the pine trees. This evergreen conifer tree has dense branches and produces long dark needles. The pine tree is grown in both urban and rural areas. It also does well in a variety of soils and is very hardy. In a young tree, the spreading branches form a pyramidal structure. During the mature phase, the tree achieves a picturesque flat topped outline.



Pine trees are very popular. In recent years, this class of trees is becoming very popular with those who plant for ornament.

The soft dark green needles are 6-10 inches long. These are arranged in bundles of three. Cones are 3 to 5 inches long. This evergreen conifer tree thrives in full sun and poor soil, and it is one of the tallest and most important timber pines in Kashmir.

Popular another very important tree in J&K is grown throughout the length and breadth of the state especially in Kashmir valley. It is mainly used for construction purposes, plywood making and as fire wood. The popular found in Ladakh region is exclusively used for construction purposes and is considered to be very hard.

Guchi

This plant grows in the alpine meadows and thick pine forest areas of J&K. It is just like mushroom and is found under the stem of forest trees. Being of high medicinal value it is highly remunerative produce of forests of J&K State.

Saffron Plant

There are only two or three places in the whole world where saffron grows. Kashmir has the proud privilege of being one of these places. There are two locations in Kashmir where saffron grows. One of these two places is Pampur of district Pulwama which is the major saffron producing belt in Kashmir. Pampur is a small



town, which is 13 km from Srinagar. It is also grown on the karewas of Budgam. Besides Shopian, saffron cultivation has also been introduced in District Doda on a limited scale. The saffron plant is very small and its flower is the only part which is seen above the ground. The blooming time of this flower is autumn. Saffron has a unique sweet smell and is used in dyeing and cooking.

The botanical name of Saffron is *Crocus Sativus*. The purple colored flowers appear just above the ground and are a beautiful sight. The orange stigmas of the saffron plant are harvested as saffron and used as a flavoring and coloring agent in various recipes. Saffron is added to Kahwa - the traditional Saffron Tea drunk by people in Kashmir.

The orange-red stigmas of the saffron plant produce a pleasant aroma and a warm golden orange color. The yellow stamens are also harvested; however they do not have the same aromatic and color properties of the stigmas. Pure saffron consists of only the orange-red stigmas of the saffron plant. Saffron is also believed to have many medicinal properties. Called Kesar in the rest of India, saffron is used as a flavoring agent in many food preparations, from rice dishes, such as biryani, to various sweets. It is considered to be "Cultivated Gold" for the state.

Apart from other fruits the Apricot of Ladakh is also very famous for its taste through out India and is main fruit grown in Ladakh region in large quantity particularly in Kargil District.

Horticulture in brief

Nature has endowed Kashmir with innumerable gifts, its towering snow clad mountains, bubbling streams, transparent and sparkling lakes, flower meadows, colorful orchards and rare fauna have always attracted numerous tourists from all corners of the world. The age-old traditional fruit cultivation has profusely colored the serenity and tranquility of Kashmir's landscape. Kashmir, the land of fauna, flora and fruits possesses a rich history of fruit cultivation. Years before the time of warrior King 'Lalita Ditya' and though the golden periods of benevolent kings like 'Awantiwaraman' and Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin 'Badshah', Kashmir has remained the symbol of fruits and flowers.

The horticulture industry in Kashmir has become the bulwark of rural economy in the state. This industry earns a revenue of over Rs. 50 crores yearly and provides job facilities to the thousands of people directly and indirectly.

Here are some choicest varieties of Kashmir fruit :

Apple

Amri (Ambri Kashmiri)

Lawrence describes it as "the most popular apple in Shopian Kashmir -- a sweet fruit ripening in October and keeping its condition for a long time and finding favour with the natives of India for its sweetness and its handsome appearance" Ambri is indigenous to Kashmir and continues to enjoy superiority by virtue of its crisp, sweet flesh and excellent aroma. The fruit is blushed red, striped, medium-sized and oblong to conical in shape with longer storage life. The fruit matures in the last week of September to first week of October. It is an excellent dessert variety.

American trel (American Apiroque)

This variety has crisp juicy, greenish white and sweet flesh and is usually medium-sized, as a result of which it has become very popular with consumers. Oblate-shaped, blushed and patchy red with a smooth surface, it matures in the last week of September. A good dessert variety.

Delicious (Red Delicious)

A world-renowned variety. It is one of the most widely grown apples. The fruit is tapering in shape with characteristic five lobes at the apex. Skin is smooth, striped and blushed red. Flesh is fine grained, greenish white, sweet, very juicy and crisp with good aroma. Size is medium to large and it matures by the end of September. A good dessert variety.

Maharaji (White Dotted Red)

A large-sized apple with bright red color on a green base with conspicuous dots. Flesh is crisp, very juicy, acidic and aromatic. The variety sweetens in storage and is an excellent keeper. The fruit matures in late October. It is also a cooking and dessert variety.

Hazaratbali (Benoni)

A medium-sized apple with rounds to slightly conical in shape and red to striped skin; white juicy and sweet flesh. It is the earliest variety of apple available from the valley, maturing in mid-July.

Kesri (Cox's Orange Pippin)

An old English medium-sized apple; it is round to conical in shape with skin orange red deepening to bright red. The flesh is yellow, firm, crisp, tender and very juicy. A dessert apple with good aroma and sub-acidic taste. The fruit matures in mid August.

Pear

Nakh Kashmiri (Chinese Sandy Pear)

This variety gets its name from grained flesh. A conical shaped, small to medium sized variety with crisp, white and juicy flesh. The skin is thick and green in color that turns yellow on ripening. Carries well in storage and is an excellent dessert variety.

Williams

A widely known English variety. The fruit is large-sized and symmetrical. Skin is yellow with faint blush. The flesh is fine, grained, juicy and sweet. The fruit matures in mid July. A good dessert variety and the choice of canners.

Cherry

Gilas Double (Bigarreau Napoleon)

This variety is large-sized and attractive with cream-red color. The flesh is firm and juicy but slightly acidic. A good keeper; excellent for canning, and dessert purposes.

Gilas Awal Number (Guigne Pourpera Pecoce)

Medium-sized, light red colored and quite fleshy. The flesh is juicy and sweet with acidic tinge. First to come in the market in May. A good dessert variety.

Gilas Misri (Bigarreau Noir Grossa)

Large sized and red colored; its skin is firm and flesh is sweet and juicy. A good dessert variety.

Walnut

Kashmir walnuts are popular within the country as well as in foreign markets; a source of substantial foreign exchange. On the basis of shell thickness these are grouped as "Burzil", "Kagzi" and "Wont"; corresponding to "Paper-shelled". Walnut Kernels are used in confectionery, as dessert and for extraction of oil.

Almond

Kashmir almonds are known for their superiority of taste and are very popular with the consumers. Like walnuts these are also grouped on the basis of shell thickness as "Papery", "Thin-shelled", and "Thick-shelled". Considered as highly nourishing and of great medicinal value, its kernels are used in confectionery as well as dessert. Its trees are the first blooming fruit trees and an enchanting sight that lends glamour to the spring in Kashmir.

Peaches

Quetta

Fruit medium to above medium, pointed, halves acuminate. Skin thick, downy, Yellow base with scattered red patches. Flesh firm, creamy yellow, moderately juicy, sweet with acidic blend when fully ripe. Free stone. The fruit is ready for harvest in 3rd week of August.

Saffron

Saffron, the golden Condiment has a history of many centuries. It is a condiment medicine, a natural dyestuff. It is an expensive spice in the world used on various functions by adding delicate aroma, pleasing flavor and magnificent yellow color to food. Its color is sharp and penetrating. It is one of the potential foreign exchange earner and is cultivated in Kashmir and extended to Kishtwar. Its harvesting starts from mid of October to end of November.

Apricot

Gilgati Sweet

Fruit medium, from oblong to rather ovate, slightly irregular in shape. Cavity rather deep to medium in depth, regular and acute. Skin yellow when fresh (brown yellow when dried) sweet, moderately flavored, stone free kernel sweet. Ready for picking in the last week of June.

Strawberry

Strawberry is earliest fruit available in Srinagar market during April. Sub-tropical areas in Jammu have potential to grow the crop under irrigated condition. It is valued for easy propagation, early maturity, high yield with 5 to 9 percent sugar. Plants start bearing in second year. Over 2000 varieties of garden strawberry are known with large fruit, weighing 30-70 grams.

Plums

Santa Rosa

Fruit medium, roundish, regular, skin smooth and thin flesh deep red, juicy, sweet and soft full of aroma, stone cling type.

Wildlife

Jammu and Kashmir is India's northernmost state. It is also a state with fascinating wildlife.

The Himalayas and the sub Himalayan mountain ranges are a unique and pristine ecosystem where many rare animals and birds can be found like snow leopard, the burly Himalayan Black Bear, the majestic Hangul or Kashmir stag, the Chiru or Tibetan antelope, the Bharal or blue sheep, many species of mountain goats, the yak - a wild animal that has been domesticated for centuries as a best of burden - and many varieties of rare birds, including the splendid Monal pheasant and Himalayan Dragoon. Other animals you can see include Musk Deer, Ibex, Leopards, monkeys and lingers.



Wildlife Sanctuaries

The state of Jammu and Kashmir is gloriously rich in its amazing variety of wildlife. Its wildlife sanctuaries offer an exciting array of wildlife. Here you can view some of India's best game parks.

The Himalayas are the largest, highest and youngest chain of mountains in the world and the area is one of the most mesmerizing and magnificent natural wonders on this planet. However another equally important aspect of the Himalayas is that it is one of the richest storehouses of fauna and flora. It is very much to the point to underline the fact that the region is home to almost one third of the world's mammalian species that may be called mountain animals in the true sense of the term.



The rich variety found in the topography, climate and vegetation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has plenty to offer both the wildlife enthusiast and traveler. The state boasts being home to the snow leopard which epitomizes the character and concerns of the mountain environment. The animal is a beautiful and elusive survivor from the frigid Pleistocene era. Hangul or Kashmir stag is another animal found extensively in Jammu and Kashmir. It is one of the most endangered species of red deer in the world. Bharal is another interesting mammal. Whether it is a sheep or a goat is still a matter of debate several unique species of goat, antelope and sheep are found in the state.

Wildlife adventure opportunities in Kashmir are in plenty and unique. There is a growing awareness of the necessity of conservation and preservation of India's wildlife.

Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Sanctuaries

- Dachigam National Park (Srinagar)
- Gulmarg Biosphere Reserve (Baramulla)

- Jasrota National Park (Samba)
- Kishtwar High Altitude National Park (Kishtwa)
- Nandni Wildlife Sanctuary (Udhampur)
- Ramnagar National Park (Udhampur)
- Surinsar Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary (Samba)
- Overa Wildlife Sanctuary (Jammu)

Hangul - Kashmir Stag

The Hangul or Kashmir Stag is an endangered species of Red Deer found in Jammu and Kashmir, India. This large deer can be seen in the Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary in Srinagar. The Hangul or Kashmir Stag is characterized by the spreading antlers of the adult male and its rich brownish red coat.



Zoological name: Cervus elaphus hanglu

Range: The Hangul or Kashmir Stag can be seen in the Dachigam National Park in Jammu and Kashmir on wildlife tours .. The Hangul lives in grassy and forested hill slopes of Jammu and Kashmir. These wild deer can also be seen in large herds in the Wardwan Valley, In the Gurez, Bholderwah, Kishtwar and Talail regions.

Appearance and behavior: The Hangul is a large deer and the male deer have impressive antlers. The female Hangul do not have horns. The color of the Hangul's coat is a brownish red, that is why it is also called Red Deer, however this color can vary with the season and age of the Hangul. In an older Hangul the coat is a dark brown. Male Hangul stags have long hair along their necks, while female stags do not.

Herds of Hangul or Kashmir stags can be seen along the higher slopes of the Dachigam Wildlife sanctuary in Srinagar. Hangul are usually seen in family groups. The male deer battle with their antlers to control a herd that consists of female deer and their young. The herd is lead by the dominant stag. Hangul are active during the day when they are seen grazing along the slopes of the Dachigam wildlife sanctuary. The herd huddles together in a group at night, for warmth and for protection against predators.

Population: The Hangul is severely endangered. The Hangul population in the Dachigam Wildlife sanctuary is believed to be around 550. The total number of Hangul elsewhere in Jammu and Kashmir is unknown. You can see the impressive Hangul or Kashmir Stag in the Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary in Jammu and Kashmir.

Snow Leopard of Kashmir

The Snow Leopard is the primary predator in high altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Seen along the snow line, the Snow Leopard is not easily noticed



because of its effective camouflage. The Snow Leopard's fur is a thick silvery grey which helps it conceal itself along the snowline and the rocks of the mountains, which are its natural habitat. The black rosettes and spots help the Snow Leopard blend into areas of sunlight and shadow and hide more effectively while stalking its prey.

Zoological name: Uncea uncea

Range: The Snow Leopard can be seen in the Dachigam National Park in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, on wildlife tours .. The Snow Leopard lives in the high altitude regions of Jammu and Kashmir in regions over 3200 meters. It is also found in other Himalayan states of India and in high altitude areas in Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, China and Central Asia. Snow Leopards prefer to live along the snow line in summer. In winter they come down to pine forests and grassy meadows in search of prey and a less harsh environment.

Appearance and behavior: The snow leopard is a handsome animal with a thick coat of silvery fur marked with black spots. The underbelly and chest are white and the fur is longer to protect it from the snow beneath. It has stocky limbs and huge paws, which give it a stable grip on the slippery snow-covered ground and rocky ridges. A Snow Leopard can be 7 feet long; this includes its 3-foot tail. It is usually 2 feet tall and weighs between 25 and 40 Kg.

Snow Leopards are good climbers and stalkers. They are normally found alone except for small groups of a mother Snow Leopard with her cubs. Cubs usually become independent after a year of living with their mothers. A mother leopard normally has 1-3 cubs. Snow Leopards are the primary predator in high altitude areas and stalk and hunt wild sheep, mountain goats, deer, rabbits, hares, marmots, and birds such as pheasant and partridges. Snow Leopards usually hunt in twilight or at night and sleep through the day therefore minimizing their chances of being seen.

Population: Worldwide there may be 4500 - 7350 Snow Leopards. The wide range of this estimate is due to the difficulty in gathering data because of the mountainous terrain in which the Snow Leopard lives. Snow Leopards are under threat from poachers who hunt them for their attractive furs even though Snow Leopards are an endangered and hence protected species in India. You can see the magnificent Snow Leopard in the Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chiru - Tibetan Antelope

The Chiru or Tibetan Antelope is an endangered animal found in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir India. This Antelope is known for the fine hair of its underbelly and chest, which is woven into the softest of woollen shawls. The wool is known as Shahtoosh or King of Wools and is one-fifth the thickness of human hair. The wool is so fine that a full-sized shawl can pass through a ring worn on ones finger. The warmth, softness and luxurious feel of Shahtoosh, has made Shahtoosh shawls a worldwide fashion must-have. This has led to the decimation of the Chiru in Tibet because several Chiru are killed to harvest the wool from their underbellies from which these



shawls are woven. In India the Chiru is protected and trade in Shahtoosh is banned. The Chiru is also protected in China.

Zoological name: *Pantholops hodgsonii*

Range: The Chiru or Tibetan Antelope can be seen in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chiru or Tibetan Antelope live on the Ladakh Plateau and on high altitude mountain slopes of Jammu and Kashmir. They are found at altitudes of over 3,700 meters. Chiru are found in larger numbers in Tibet.

Appearance and behavior: The Chiru or Tibetan Antelope is a medium sized deer. It has a dense coat, which protects it during the severe Himalayan winter. The wool on the back and shoulders is light brown while the fine wool on the chest and underbelly is cream or white. The face and legs are dark brown or black. Male Chiru have black horns, which extend for 50-70 cm. Chiru or Tibetan Antelope live in small herds of 10-15 individuals led by a large male antelope. Male Chiru fight for control of the herd and can seriously hurt each other with their sharp horns.

Snow Leopards, Himalayan Black Bears, Wolves, and poachers prey upon Chiru. They are therefore quick to flee at the first sign of danger. Chiru usually feed in the twilight hours of morning and evening. Chiru have adapted to the harsh Himalayan weather. They dig shallow troughs in which they rest. This protects them from the icy wind and the sight of predators. Chiru feed on grasses and plants found on the Tibetan and Ladakh plateaus.

Population: The Chiru or Tibetan Antelope is an endangered species. The total number of Chiru worldwide is estimated to be around 60-75,000. You can see the Chiru or Tibetan Antelope in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.

Yak

Yaks are found in the wild in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Yaks have been domesticated in Ladakh for thousands of years and are a very valuable animal in the Himalayan economy. The yak is used as a beast of burden to carry loads and to plough fields. The local people also drink its milk and eat its meat. The Yak's thick hair is used to weave blankets and ropes and Yak dung provides fuel in the treeless areas of Ladakh and the Tibetan Plateau.



Zoological name: *Bos grunniens*

Range: The Yak can be seen in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir on wildlife tours .. Domesticated Yaks can be seen in the possession of local farmers while wild Yaks live on mountain slopes of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir. They are found at altitudes of over 3,200 meters. Yaks are also found in Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan.

Appearance and behavior: The Yak is a large mammal. An adult male Yak can grow to almost 6 feet tall and weigh 1000 Kg. Female Yaks are smaller. Yaks are covered with a dense coat of thick black hair that protects it from the extremely cold Himalayan climate. Yaks can survive temperatures of - 40 C. They are hardy animals and can survive snowstorms and blizzards. In harsh winters they can survive by eating moss and dried grass. Snow and ice provides liquid refreshment for the Yak.

Yaks are also good climbers and can pick their way over rocky mountain slopes and inclines.

Yaks usually live in herds of 10-30 though larger groups have also been seen. Yak herds migrate in winter to better pastures on the lower slopes and return to the high altitude pastures in warmer months. Yaks feed on grass, mosses and leaves. Their horns are used to dig through the snow to expose grasses underneath. The long horns of the male Yak can extend up to 76 cm.

Population: There are less than 10,000 mature wild Yaks worldwide. Domesticated Yaks however are more numerous and are believed to be around 12, 000. You can see both domesticated and wild yaks in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.

Birds of Ladakh

Ladakh is a unique Himalayan ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The starkly beautiful landscape of Ladakh is often described as a moonscape because of its dramatic barren appearance. However even in this seemingly barren environment there are many beautiful and rare birds to be found. These include the rare and elusive Black Necked Crane. Revered in the mythology of Ladakh and protected by the Buddhist faith of the local Ladakhi people, these rare birds and many others find this Himalayan habitat a safe nesting ground.



Around 170 species of birds are found in Ladakh. Many of these birds are migratory in nature. They feed and nest in the higher reaches of the slopes in summer and migrate to the lower and warmer slopes in winter.

Some of the birds found in Ladakh include Himalayan Snow cocks, Himalayan partridges, and pheasants including the Monal Pheasant. These birds are mostly ground dwellers and are valued for their plumage and meat. The Mongolian Plover is a variety of ground nesting bird seen in Ladakh. It is known for its distraction display, which it uses to distract a predator such as a fox or human who approaches its nest. To protect its eggs or chicks the Plover pretends to be injured and holding a wing as if it were broken, attracts the attention of the threatening predator and leads it away, only to fly away at the last moment, after its sure its chicks are safe.

Predatory birds found in Ladakh include the Lammergeyer or Bearded Vulture. This fascinating bird drops bones that it has scavenged, onto bare rocks from a height, to break the bones and eat the marrow within Griffon vultures, falcons and kites are also seen riding the thermal air currents over the Himalayas in Ladakh.

Rare Geese found in Ladakh include the Bar Headed Goose which breeds in large breeding colonies on the Tso Morari Lake.

The Black Necked Crane

Zoological name: *Grus nigricollis*

Range: The Black Necked Crane is a rare species of crane found in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir India. The Black Necked Crane is found in large numbers in Tibet and China.

Appearance and behavior: The Black Necked Crane is an elegant bird. Its body is covered with whitish-grey feathers. Its neck, face, feet and secondary feathers are black providing its striking appearance. Its long beak is gray-green. The Black Necked Cranes fly together in a characteristic V-shaped formation with each bird flapping its wings in a smooth and graceful movement.

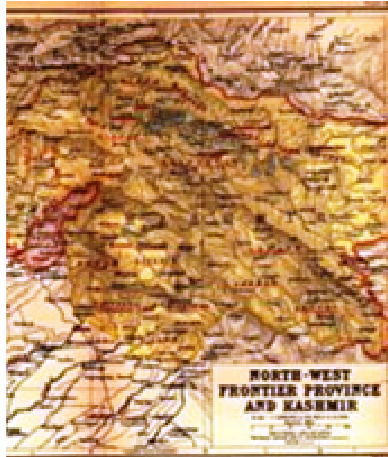
The Black Necked Crane has a distinctive call like the sound of a trumpet, which can be heard from some distance away. The courtship dance of the Black Necked Crane is a beautiful sight. A pair of Cranes bonds for life and their courtship is characterized by unison calls, bowing, dancing, flapping of wings and exchanging of bits of grass and twigs. The Black Necked Crane builds its nest on the ground in its wetland habitat. The Black Necked Crane nests in Ladakh in summer and feeds on various roots, aquatic life and shoots in the marshes of Ladakh.

Population: There are between 5,600 and 6000 Black Necked Cranes worldwide. You could see the rare Black Necked Crane if you're lucky, since it is an elusive bird.



3. *Glory of the Past*

Kashmir is perhaps, to possess an authentic account of its history from the very earliest period. This past account of the valley, its culture and traditions, rise and fall of various Kingdoms, victory and defeats of the people have been noted carefully, yet critically by the sons of its soil. True it is, that the Kashmiri literature is very rich in information about Kashmir.



1900: Map of Princely state of J&K

The beauty and the salubrious climate of the valley was known even from the ancient times. The mythological traditions supported fully by the research of geologists confirm that the valley originally was a huge lake called "Satisar", (the land of goddess Sati, consort of Lord Shiva) and its waters were blocked near Baramulla (ancient Varahmulla). In the words of Sir Francis Young Husband, "The huge lake must have been twice the length and three times the width of the lake of Geneva, completely encircled by snowy mountains as high, and higher than Mount Blank, while in the immediately following glacial period, mighty glaciers came wending down to the Sindh, Lidder, and other valleys even to the edge of water."

Periods of Independence

Up to 1325: Ruled by 155 Rajas independent and sovereign
1325 to 1585: Muslim Sultans independent and sovereign (1420 to 1470) "Golden period of Kashmir history"

Periods of Occupation and Struggle for Freedom

1586 to 1752: Mughal Rule
1752 to 1819: Tyrannical Afghan Rule
1819 to 1846: Colonized by Sikhs
16 Mar. 1846: British sold Kashmir to Dogras
1846 to 1947: Dogra Rule
15 Aug. 1947: Partition of British India Indo-Pak war to gain control over the territory of Kashmir
22 Oct. 1947: Pakistani backed tribal Invasion of Kashmir
24 Oct. 1947: Pakistan occupies one third of Kashmir - Provisional Government of Azad Kashmir proclaimed
27 Oct. 1947: Indian military intervention in Kashmir- two thirds of Kashmir occupied by India
Indo-Pak War: Cease-fire maintained 1 Jan, 1949.

Kashmir's greatest historian Kalhan writes about his native land "It is a country where the sun shines mildly, being the place created by Rishi Kashyap, for his glory - big and lofty houses, learning, Saffron, icy cool water and grapes rare in Heaven are plentiful here - Kailash is the best place in the three worlds (Tn-bk), Himalayas the best place in Kailash, and Kashmir the best place in Himalayas". Our immortal Sanskrit poet Kalidas writes about the valley;

"The place is more beautiful than the heaven and is the benefactor of supreme bliss and happiness. It seems to me that I am taking a bath in the lake of nectar here."

Sir Walter Lawrence writes "The valley is an emerald set in pearls; a land of lakes, clear streams, green turf, magnificent trees and mighty mountains where the air is cool, and the water sweet, where men are strong, and women vie with the soil in fruitfulness. "He further writes that the valley contains everything which should make life enjoyable. There is sport varied and excellent; there is scenery for the artist and the layman, mountain for the mountaineer, flower for the Botanist, a vast field for the Geologist and magnificent ruins for the archaeologist.

Pre-Historic Times

According to the oldest extant book on Kashmir, "Nilmat Puran ", in the Satisar lived a demon called Jalod Bowa, who tortured and devoured the people, who lived near mountain slopes. Hearing the suffering of the people, a great saint of our country, Kashyap by name, came to the rescue of the people here. After performing penance for a long time, the saint was blessed, and he was able to cut the mountain near Varahmulla, which had blocked the water of the lake from flowing into the plains below. The lake was drained, the land appeared, and the demon was killed. The saint encouraged people from India to settle in the valley. The people named the valley as Kashyap-Mar and Kashyap-Pura. The name Kashmir also implies land desiccated from water: "ka" (the water) and shimeera (to desiccate). The ancient Greeks called it "Kasperia" and the Chinese pilgrim Hien-Tsang who visited the valley around 631 A. D. called it KaShi-Mi-Lo". In modern times the people of Kashmir have shortened it into "Kasheer" in their tongue.

In Persian terminology Kashmir is combination of two words "kash" and "mir", kash means to attract and mir means the rich, there by Kashmir means attracting the rich.

Regarding pre historic times Dr Sunil Chandra Ray writes Pre-historic explorations have discovered the occurrence of quaternary Glacial cycles in the valley. The chief Geological formation of the ice-age here are the lacustrine deposits called the " Karewas", which overlay the terminal moraines of the first Glaciation and are comprised of two groups, Lower and Upper, differentiated by the moraines of the second Glaciation. The fossil remains of Elphas-hysudrius obtained in the lower 'Karewas' point to lower "Pleistocene age ", writes De Teera. The neolithic culture is indicated by the discovery of ground and polished stone axes, hoes, pestle, and bone implements at the well-known megalithic site of Burzahom, ten miles east of, Srinagar. Burzahoma is famous as one of the only two megalithic sites in the extreme north-west of Indian sub-continent. We do not exactly know the Cultural horizon of the Burzahoma megalithic, nor the Purpose for which they were erected, but the indications are, they were put in places towards the end of the neolithic period at that site, between 400 to 300 B. C."

In 1960, Archaeological Department of the Govt. of India began systematic excavation at this site. Near about the siltbed, pits have been discovered in sections, indicating a settlement of early Pit dwellers whose date has tentatively been fixed at

3000 BC .This is perhaps the only known find of such a settlement in India. It is possible that more valuable data would be found, when extensive surface diggings are completed.

Hindu Period

Kalhan has started the history of Kashmir just before the great Mahabharat war, and the first King mentioned by him is Gonanda I, whose initial year of reign he places in 653 Kali-era, the traditional date of the coronation of King Yudhistira, the eldest brother of the Pandvas. Gonanda was killed in a battle along with his son in India, and at the time of the commencement of the Mahabharat war, Gonanda II was ruling Kashmir. After his death, the great historian informs that the record of 35 kings who ruled the valley could not be traced by him, because of the destruction of the record. However a modern scholar Peer Zada Hassan has given a brief record of these Kings from a Persian work composed during the time of Sultan Zainul-Abdeen (1420-70). The author of this work Mulla Ahmad had been able to obtain the names of these kings from an earlier Sanskrit work "Ratnakar". The great Mauryan emperor Ashoka is recorded to have ruled Kashmir, and Kalhan rightly mentions that the king was a follower of Buddhism. Ashoka founded the old city of Srinagar called now as "Pandrethan", (Puranadhisthan) and also build many vihars and temples and repaired the old shrine. It was Majjhantika, a celebrated Buddhist missionary who was deputed to Kashmir and Urvasa to preach the faith of Buddha in those territories. Hien-Tsang mentions the arrival of 500 monks to Kashmir, and Ashoka making a gift of the valley to Sangha. Many Buddhist scholars, missionaries, and intellectuals permanently settled in the valley. After the death of Ashoka, his son Jaluka ascended the throne of Kashmir, and the latter was succeeded by his son King Damodar Jaluka was a great king who cleared the valley of oppressing 'Malechas', (foreign unclean tribes). King Damodar lives in our memory even at present, for the Srinagar Air-port is located at Damodar I Karewa, where the king is supposed to have lived in a big palace and, where again, he was transformed into a snake by the curse of a Brahmin. The scholars also, accept the theory that the valley for over two hundred years was ruled by Indo-Greek Kings before the start of" Turushka "(Kushan) rule in the state. Cunningham records a large find of silver coins of Azes (and Azilies) (coins of Indo-Scythians) on the banks of Vitasta (river Jhelum) in the hills between Varahmulla and Jhelum. The contact with the Greeks is responsible for the beautiful architectural, and sculptural style of old Kashmir temples, and the coinage of later Kashmir Kings has also been influenced by this contact. Kalhan's account of Turushka Kings, indicates without any doubt the Kushan occupation of the Valley. The three kings mentioned by him are Huska, Juska, and Kanishka, each of them is credited with the foundation of a town, christened after their respective names: Tushkapura, Jushkapura and Kanishkapura. The Kushan Kings also built many temples and Vihars. According to many scholars, Kanishka held the third great council of the Buddhist church at" Kundalvan ", (Harwan, near Shalimar garden) Hien Tsang has given the proceedings of this council. Nearly 500 Buddhist and Hindu scholars attended this conference, and a learned Kashmir Brahmin Vasumitra presided over its session. Some of the great Buddhist scholars, who took active part in this council were Ashvagosha, Nagarjuna, Vasubandu Sugarnitra and Jinamitra. Hien-Tsang praises the intellectual calibre of the Kashmir scholars, and considered them as incomparable. The entire proceedings of the conference were inscribed on copper plates in Sanskrit, enclosed in stone boxes, deposited in a Vihar. Like famous Gilgit manuscripts, it is possible that these copper plates may be unearthed in near future, and we would learn much about the rich cultural history of the valley.

After Kanishka, local weak rulers continued to govern the state, till we hear from Kalhan, the arrival of Mahir-Gul, the notorious Hun invader of our country. Kalhan correctly represents him as a savage cruel king, whose approach became known by the sight of thousands of vultures, crows and the like in the sky, eager to feed on those being massacred by his encircling army. While crossing PirPanchal pass, the tyrant rolled down one hundred elephants from a mountain pass. The shrieks and the yells of the dying elephants greatly delighted this fiend. Till the advent of Karkota dynasty (beginning of 8th Century) the Gonanda dynasty gave Kashmir only two notable rulers viz. Meghvahan and Pravansein. The former was a pious and a strong ruler with Buddhist leanings. He stopped killing of animals and birds throughout his Kingdom. In fact, he undertook conquest of many countries solely for the purpose of stopping animal slaughter. His chief queen Amrit Prabha built 'Amrit Bhawan' Vihar for foreign pilgrims and students who came to Kashmir in large numbers for learning. The next great King was Praversein II in whose time people enjoyed perfect peace and prosperity, He was a great conqueror who extended the boundaries of the state in all directions. He has made his name immortal by founding the city of Praverseinpura (modern city of Srinagar), the summer capital of the state at present. Praversein ruled ably for 60 years.

It was during the time of first king of Karkota dynasty, Durlabvardhan that the [great Chinese pilgrim, Hien-Tsang visited Kashmir and entered the valley via Varahmulla where he found a huge stone gate. The entry of all outsiders, except the Hindus, was banned in the state then. Hien-Tsang was given a right royal reception by the people including the king. He stayed in Kashmir for nearly two years, studied Sanskrit and Hindu scriptures at the feet of learned men here.

It is the Karkota dynasty that has given Kashmir the greatest ruler Lalitaditya Muktapid (724- 761 A. D.). He is undoubtedly the Samudra Gupta of Kashmir. He was filled with an unquenchable thirst of world conquest. He invaded and conquered many countries in Asia and India. The Punjab, Kanuj, Tibet, Ladhak, Badakshan, Iran, Bihar, Gauda (Bengal) Kalinga (Orissa), South India, Gujarat, Malwa, Marwar and Sindh were all conquered by him. It was he, who finally broke the power of Arabs in Sindh. All these unbroken victories created a feeling of pride among the people here and his victories came to be celebrated in a big way. Kalhan who wrote his famous chronicle (Rajatarangini) nearly four hundred years after the death of Lalitaditya, records that even in his time the victories of the great victor were being celebrated throughout the valley. Alberuni, who accompanied Mahmud Gaznavi in his Indian Campaigns, specifically mentions in his book (Tahqiq-i-Hind) that Kashmiris observed second of Chaitra, as the day of victory. Lalitaditya was equally a great builder and he built his capital near the sacred shrine of Khir-Bhawani, and gave it the name of Parihaspur (city of pleasure)(now in district Baramulla).

Throughout the valley, he built. very fine and massive temples, out of which the world famous sun temple (Martand) built on Mattan Karewa, reminds us about the grandeur and splendour of the times when their builder ruled the state. The extensive ruins of his capital city Parihaspur, speak of his activities in the field of art and architecture. After his death, it is mostly the weak rulers except his grand son Jayatida, who ruled the valley. Both Lalitaditya, and Jayatida were great patrons of learning and extended their patronage to Bhavabhuti, Vakpatrija, UdhataBhata, Damodhar Gupta, Manoratha, Sankhdanta and Samadhimat etc. The history of Karkota dynasty after Jayatida is a sad story of decline. All the conquered territories regained their independence, and the sovereignty of the ruler of Kashmir came to be confined to Vitasta basin. The economic ruin was hastened by the extravagant habits of both the rulers and the ministers. In the words of Kalhan : "the ministers and the

grandeers carried-off the revenues of the country, feasted in mutual jealousy on the masterless kingdom, like wolves on a dead buffalo in a desert. "In spite of all this the Karkota rule on the whole has been considered as the glorious and remarkable periods of ancient Kashmir. Laments Dr. P. C. Ray that "never before the Karkota period, had Kashmir performed such a feat, nor was she able to repeat it in future."

It was round about in 855-56 A. D. that Karkota rule ended, and a new Utpal Dynasty assumed power in Kashmir. The most important ruler of this dynasty was Maharaja Avantivarman. It was he, who recovered Kashmir from utter political and economic disorder. His reign witnessed a period of peace and consolidation and prosperity. It was during this time, that the valley rose to great heights in the realm of philosophy. There was an outburst of literary activity on a grand scale, and eminent men Kallata Bhat sura, Ratnakar, Anandavardhana, Muktakana, Siva-Swamin, Rudrata and Mukula. Kalhan's mention of numerous temples built and towns founded by the King, and his ministers throws plenty of light on the prosperous condition of the period. The most important foundation of the King was his capital city of Avantipur, which he embellished with two temples, one dedicated to Shiva, and other to Vishnu. Both of them are in ruins now, but even then, they stand as the most imposing monuments of ancient Kashmir.

The reign of this King would not be complete without the mention of 'Suya' one of the greatest engineer Kashmir produced in ancient times. For centuries the people of the valley had been suffering from the recurring curse of famines and floods. Suya correctly assessed that these frequent calamities occurred due to heavy rains and excessive water of Vitasta river which could not easily get out with swiftness, through a gorge near Varahmulla, as the compressed passage there had got blocked with silt and huge boulders. The people removed both the silt and stones when the great engineer threw plenty of gold and silver coins into the river at many places. Thousands of starving people immediately jumped into the flooded Vitasta and in order to find the coins, cleared the bed of the rocks and boulders which had choked up the passage. Suya, then raised stone embankments, and adopted other protective measures. Many canals were dug-out to increase the irrigational facilities. The result of all these measures was, that a great increase of land became available for cultivation. The production of paddy increased and the price of one Khirwar (nearly two mounds) came down to 36 Dinars from 200 Dinars. Suya's memory is still preserved to this day, by the town Sayapur (Sopore) founded by him at the point where river Vitasta, since his regulation leaves the basin of Mahapadomsar (Wóuler lake). Avantivarman died in a temple on the Dal Lake, when a fatal disease caught him, and in the words of Kalhan, "listening to the end to the song of the Lord Bhagvatgeeta) and thinking of the residence of Vishnu (Vaikuntha) he cast off her earthly life with a cheerful mind. " (June 883) Avantivarman was succeeded by his son Shankarvarman, but then the decline of Utpal dynasty set in. In the time of King Yasakara (939-48) a 'Math' (hospice) was built for the students of India, who came to Kashmir for study and meditation. It clearly reveals intimate cultural contact between the valley, and plains of India in the 10th century. In 950, Khemgupta ascended the throne of Kashmir, a man of mediocre ability who married princess Didda, daughter of the ruler of Lohara (Poonch) and grand daughter of the Shahi king of Kabul. After the eclipse of Utpala dynasty, Lohara dynasty ruled Kashmir till the end of the Hindu rule in Kashmir (1339). Queen Didda was the defacto ruler of the state, as she was very dominating and exercised immense influence over her husband. She built many temples and monasteries and one of these was reserved for people of Madyadesha and Lata (U. P., Bihar and Central India). In 980 A.D. Didda ascended the throne after the death of her husband. Before her, two other queens had ruled Kashmir namely Yashovati and Sugandha. Didda was a very unscrupulous,

and wilful lady and led a very immoral life. But inspite of these drawbacks, she was an able ruler, who firmly ruled the valley. She died in 1003 A. D. and left the throne of Kashmir to her family in undisputed succession. As her children had died young, she transmitted the crown to Sangramraj, son of her brother Udairaj, the ruler of Lohara (Poonch).

It was during her time that Mahmud Gaznavi twice tried to capture the valley but the fort at Lohara, remarkable for its height and strength proved impregnable. The Sultan was obliged to abandon the conquest.

From 1089 to 1101 A. D., King Harsha ruled Kashmir. Versed in many languages, a good poet, lover of music and art, he started his rule in a remarkable way, and became famous in northern India. His court was a centre of luxury and splendour. He introduced new fashions in dress and ornaments. His ministers were gorgeously dressed, wore earrings and head dresses, previously reserved for the members of ruling families only. But strangely enough, Harsha's career became a record of follies and misdeeds. The people also suffered from famine, and plague as well, and a considerable section of people became victims of these calamities. A confusion followed these misfortunes, leading to a general rising of the people under two royal princes Uccalia and Succalla. Harsha along with his son Bhoja were murdered, and the Kashmir throne passed into the hands of two princes respectively. Both the princes met the fate of Harsha and when our great historian Kaihan completed his 'Rajatarangini' in 1149 - 50 King Jaisimha, the last great ruler of the Hindu times was ruling the state.

Jaisimha's (1128-55) early days were critical, because of the preceding civil wars and political unrest. Still the new ruler was able to maintain his firm rule for 27 years in comparative safety. The King repaired and restored many temples and shrines, and numerous other pious foundations were also made during his reign. The people after a long time heaved a sigh of relief. From 1155 - 1339, the Kashmir rulers remained busy only in intrigues, debauchery, and mutual quarrels. These incessant feuds, civil wars, risings and upheavals greatly weakened Hindu domination of Kashmir. The valley soon fell a prey to Mongol and Turkish raiders, freebooters and foreign adventurers. Quite naturally, the boundaries of the Kingdom got shrunk, and were reduced to the proper valley only. The Kabul valley Proutonsa (Poonch), Pajapuri (Rajauri) Kangra, Jammu, Kisthwar and Ladhak, one after the other threw-off their allegiance to the rulers of Kashmir.

In the beginning of 14th century a ferocious Mongol, Dulucha invaded the valley through its northern side Zojila Pass, with an army of 60,000 men. Like Taimur in the Punjab and Delhi, Dulucha carried sword and fire, destroyed towns and villages and slaughtered thousands. His savage attack ended the Hindu rule in Kashmir. A weak and worthless man Raja Sahadev was the ruler then. It was during his reign that three adventurers, Shah Mir from Swat (Tribal) territory on the borders of Afganistan, Rinchin from Ladhak, and Lankar Chak from Dard territory near Gilgit came to Kashmir, and played a notable role in subsequent political history of the valley. All the three men were granted Jagirs by the King. Rinchin for 3 years became the ruler of Kashmir, Shah Mir was the first ruler of Shah Miri-dynasty, and the descendants of Lankar Chak established Chak rule in the Kashmir.

The last Hindu ruler of Kashmir was Udyan Dev. It was his chief Queen Kota Rani, who practically governed the state. She was a very brave lady, shrewd and an able ruler. Though she tried her best to save her Kingdom, odds were too heavy for her. The valley was again invaded by a Mongol and Turk invader Achalla, but the Queen defeated him, and drove away all the foreign troops. In the confusion Rinchin, the

Ladhaki prince, whom the Hindu religious leaders of the time refused to admit into their fold, organised an internal rising and seized the throne. Before his death, he embraced Islam. Finally another rising was led by Shah Mir, who defeated the queen at Jayapur (modern Sumbal).

History in Brief

History of Kashmir Before 1947

Kashmir, if literally translated, means land desiccated from water: "ka" (the water) and shimeera (to desiccate). Tradition says that Kashmir was originally a lake that was drained by the great saint of ancient India Kashyap. It was included in the empire of Ashoka Maurya who is credited with the foundation of the city of Srinagar around the year 250 BC.

During this period Buddhism spread in Kashmir and flourished under the Kushans. During the reign of Kanishka, the third Buddhist council took place in Kashmir which has been attested by the 7th century Chinese traveler Hien Tsang. But Hinduism held its sway in the region. The 7th Century AD witnessed the establishment of a dynasty called the Karkota whose foundation stone was laid by Durlabhavarrrdhana. The most famous ruler of this dynasty was Lalitaditya Muktapid who built the world famous sun temple (Martand) in Kashmir. The Karkotas were supplanted by the Utpalas in 855 AD. The most important ruler of this dynasty was Avanti-verman. He recovered Kashmir from utter political and economic disorder into which Kashmir had fallen during the rule of his predecessors. Didda, a Gupta widowed queen, ruled Kashmir until 1003 AD when



the Lohara dynasty took over. Didda was a very unscrupulous and willful lady and led a very immoral life. But in spite of these drawbacks, she ruled the valley with firm hands.

The last Hindu ruler of Kashmir was Udyan Dev. His chief Queen Kota Rani was the de facto ruler of the kingdom. She was a very brave lady, shrewd and an able ruler. With her death in 1339 the Hindu rule in Kashmir came to an end and thus was established the Muslim rule in Kashmir under Sultan Shamas-ud-din whose dynasty ruled the valley for 222 years.

The greatest ruler of this dynasty was undoubtedly Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin. Under his rule Kashmir was culturally and politically at its zenith. The kingdom was annexed into the Mughal Empire in 1586 and thus was extinguished the freedom of Kashmir.

In 1757 Kashmir came under the control of Ahmed Shah Durrani, the Afghan who invaded India many times. In 1819 Kashmir was annexed by Ranjit Singh and made a part of his Sikh empire. The two Anglo-Sikh wars fought between the Sikhs and Ranjit Singh resulted in the complete extinction of the Sikh sovereignty in Kashmir. The British gave away Kashmir to Ghulab Singh for the sum of 75 lakhs of rupees under the Treaty of Amritsar. This entitled Ghulab Singh to have his complete sway over the dominion. He extended his territory by annexing Ladakh. Ghulab Singh died in 1857 and was replaced by Rambir Singh (1857-1885). Two other Marajahs, Partab Singh (1885-1925) and Hari Singh ruled in succession. Maharaja Sir Hari Singh ascended the throne in 1925. He continued to govern the state till 1950. In 1932

Kashmir's first political party - All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference was formed by Sheik Abdullah. The party was later renamed the National Conference in 1939 and continues to be a major political party in Kashmir today.

History of Kashmir After 1947

After Indian Independence in 1947, the ruler of the princely state of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, refused to accede to either India or Pakistan. When Pakistan invaded Kashmir in the following year, the ruler of Kashmir sought help from the Indian government and agreed to place Kashmir under the dominion of India. As a result India sent its troops to Kashmir to help the Maharaja. A UN cease-fire in 1949 saw the end of fighting and created the first Line-of-Control.



In 1956 Kashmir was, in effect, integrated into the Indian Union under a new Constitution. However, Azad Kashmir, the area which Pakistan gained during its campaign in 1948, continues to remain with Pakistan. The volatile situation was aggravated by the Chinese occupation of the Aksai Chin region, in Ladakh, in 1959. The situation came to head in 1963 when a Sino-Pak agreement defined the Chinese border with Pakistani Kashmir and ceded Indian-claimed territory to China.

India and Pakistan fought over Kashmir again in 1965. A UN cease-fire took effect in September, 1965. Prime Minister Lal Bhadur Shastri of India and President Ayub Khan of Pakistan signed the Tashkent agreement on 1st January 1966. They resolved to try to end the dispute by peaceful means.

Fighting erupted between India and Pakistan once again in the month of December 1971, after the leaders of the independence movement in East Pakistan sought India's help. Its leaders were aided by India in their struggle for independence. After the war, the province of East Pakistan emerged as an independent country called Bangladesh. A new cease-fire took effect and the Shimla Agreement was signed between the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Pakistani President Z. A. Bhutto. Both the countries agreed to sort out all issues bilaterally.

Kashmir was a tourist's paradise during the 1970's and early 1980's. However tourism in Kashmir declined during the late 1980's and 1990's, due to disturbances and insecure atmosphere. Thousands of innocent Kashmiri lives have been lost due to terrorism. Today the situation has somewhat improved with both countries agreeing to come to the negotiating table and discuss all outstanding issues with an open mind. All this augurs well for the state of Jammu and Kashmir and hopefully, peace will return to Kashmir - followed by tourists, who remember its beautiful parks, Rolling Meadows, spectacular mountains and scenic destinations with nostalgia.

MUSLIM PERIOD

After the death of Queen Kota, Shah Mir ascended the throne under the name of Sultan Shamas-ud-din, and his dynasty ruled the state for 222 years. This period is one of the most important in the annals of Kashmir, in as much as Islam was firmly established here. The Shah-Miri dynasty has given us only two rulers, who are worthy of mention. One is Sultan Shihabud-din, and the second is the great Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin. The former ascended the throne in 1354, and continued to rule till

1371 He was full of energy, and vigour and he was able to establish his sway over the neighboring countries. His army mainly consisted of Damras, Lavans and the hill tribes of Poonch, Rajapuri and Kishtwar. The important commanders who served under him were both Hindus and Muslims, such as Chandra-Damra, Laula Daniara, Shura, Syed Hassan and Abdul Raina. His two important Hindu ministers were Kota Bhat and Udyashri. At the beginning of his reign, he led an army to Sindh and defeated its ruler. While returning he defeated Afgans near Peshawar and then he conquered Kabul, Gazni, Qandhar, Pakhali, Swat and Multan. He invaded Badakshan, and then marched towards Dardistan and Gilgit, which he easily conquered. Then he marched towards Bulochistan and Ladhak. The ruler of Kashgar (central Asia) came with a huge army and Shihabud-din whose army was numerically inferior, inflicted a crushing defeat and the Kashgar army was almost wiped out. This led to the annexation of Laddhak and Bultistan, which were claimed by the Kashgar ruler. It is also said that the ruler of Kashmir marched towards Delhi, and on the way conquered Kangra, and then the army of Ferozashah Tughlaq opposed him on the banks of Sutluj. Since the battle between the rulers of the Delhi and Kashmir was indecisive, peace was concluded, and it was agreed that all the territory from Sirhind to Kashmir belonged to the Kashmir ruler. Shahabud-din was not only a great conqueror but also an able administrator, and he governed his kingdom with firmness and justice. He was tolerant ruler and treated his Hindu subjects generously.

It is reported that owing to prolonged campaigns he needed money, and his ministers asked him to loot the temples, but he stoutly opposed the proposal, and to quote Jonaraj, he is reported to have said in anger: "Past generation have set-up images to obtain fame, and earn merit, and you propose to demolish them. Some have obtained renown by setting up images of gods, others by worshipping them, some by maintaining them, and you propose demolishing them How great is the enormity of such a deed ". The king founded a new town which he called Shihab-ud-dinpora, known now as Shadipur(now near sumbal in District Bandipora). He is also said to have erected many mosques and monasteries. Shihab-ud-din can rightly be called the Lalitaditya of medieval Kashmir. During his time Kashmir armies marched to distant lands, and our victorious banners were unfurled on many forts of foreign countries. Thus this great ruler raised Kashmir to great eminence, and power.

The next ruler was Sultan Qutab-ud-din, and in whose time the important event and worth mentioning revolution is the arrival of sufi saint Shah Hamdan, who was the most remarkable personality of the then muslim world At the time of his third visit he got with himself 700 Syeds from Hamdan, who were being out to torture by Timur, ruler of Persia. It was the arrival of the great Iranian Saint, Mir Syed Ali Hamadani, the founder of Islam in Kashmir, which had a profound impact on every sphere of life here. These syeds established their centres of missonery activities in different parts of the valley. In 1389, Qutab-ud-din died, and he was succeeded by his eldest son Sultan-Sikandar. Shahi-Khan or Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin ascended the throne in 1420 A. D. and ruled upto 1470 A. D. nearly for half a century. His accession to the throne, proved to be the return of a bright and warm day after a cold and a chilly night.

Zain-ul Abidin organized a huge army, and with its help he reconquered the Punjab, Western Tibet, Ladhak and Balti region, Kulu and Ohind (Hazara). The Sultan also maintained cordial and friendly relations with rulers of other countries. The Sheriff of Macca and the Kings of Juan and Egypt sent him presents. The Maharaja of Gwalior,

hearing that the Sultan was interested in Music, sent him valuable works on Indian



Budshah Tomb in Srinagar

music. There was also an exchange of embassies and gifts between the great Sultan and the rulers of Sindh, Bengal, Tibet, Gujrat, Maiwa and Delhi. The Sultan improved the tone of administration which had rudely been shaken. He appointed talented persons in high administrative posts, irrespective of caste or creed. The Sultan had a high sense of justice and no one who committed a crime was spared, however close he was to throne. Many grandees who were favourites of the king, were severely punished when found guilty. The king took keen interest in agriculture and like Lalitaditya and Avantivarman, many canals were dug out in all parts of the Kingdom. Jonraj and Shriya have given details of these canals in their valuable books. Owing to these irrigation works, the draining of marshes and reclamation of large areas for cultivation, Kashmir became self-sufficient in food, and rice was cheap.

One of the most outstanding features of his administration was the just and liberal treatment of the Hindus, who were not only allowed complete freedom of worship, but the Sultan recalled all those who had fled to India in the time of his father. He allowed those Hindus who had forcibly been converted, to return to their former religion. The Sultan banned cow slaughter and permitted the repair and rebuilding of the temples at government expenses. He granted lands to learned Brahmins, endowed temples and for Hindu pilgrims visiting holy places in the valley he opened a royal kitchen at Rainawari known even now as Jogi Lancker. Jiziya was almost abolished and the Sultan participated in Hindu festivals and entertained Brahmins and Sadhus on auspicious days. Some of his important Hindu ministers were the famous physician Shri Bhat, Tilakacharya, Simha Bhat, Ruppa Bhat, Karupar Bhat and Shrivara. At the same time Sultan was a great patron of men of letters such as Syed Mohammad Rumi, Syed Ahmad Rumi, Quazi Syed Mir Shirazi, Qazi Jamal and Maulana Kabir to mention only a few. The Sultan had also established a translation department where important works were translated from Sanskrit into Persian and Arabic. The Sultan opened schools and hostels for the students. It is for encouragement of arts and crafts that Kashmir will be permanently indebted to the Sultan. In the Hindu times, the valley was equally famous for its arts and crafts but these had greatly suffered in the chaos which lasted for over two hundred years. The Sultan invited competent teachers from countries to Kashmir, so that they could train people here.

Among many industries introduced by him, we can mention carpet, paper machine, paper making, silk rearing, shawls, manufacture of gun powder etc. Kashmir became so famous for beautiful designs on silks and shawls that our state acquired an unrivalled fame in Asia. Even after a century when Babar's cousin Mirza Haider Daulghat invaded Kashmir, he wrote in Tarikhi-Reshidi: "In Kashmir one meets with all these arts and crafts which are in most cities uncommon, such as stone polishing,

stone cutting, bottle making window cutting, gold beating etc. In the whole Maver-ul-Nahir (Khorasan) except in Samarkand, and Bokhara, these are nowhere to be met with, while in Kashmir they are in abundance. This is all due to Zain-ül-Abidin." The Sultan was a great builder. He founded the new city called Nowshehar (a part of the city now) He adorned it with splendid houses for his officers, courtiers and learned men. He built a palace of 12 storeys in it, each containing 50 rooms, halls and corridors. It was surmounted by a golden dome, and its spacious halls were lined with glass. Besides Nowshader, the Sultan founded the town of Zainapur, Zainakut and Zainagir. Similarly he built the first wooden bridge at Srinagar known even now as Zainakadal. In 1470 A. D. the Sultan died and for a long time his death was mourned by the people. Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin's death sounded the death knell of Shah-Miri dynasty. It met the same fate that the Lohara dynasty had met after the death of Jaisimha in 1156. The only important event that took place before the establishment of Chak dynasty was the invasion of Mirza Haider Dughiat who attacked Kashmir from Zogila pass in 1533. Soon he was able to establish his ascendancy in the valley. The Moghul, like Dulchu earlier, killed, looted and plundered the people, and made women and children their slaves. The Sultan of Kashmir, Nazuk Shah, became almost a puppet in his hands. Moghuls were appointed on high posts everywhere, and the Jagirs of Kashmir Noblemen were confiscated. For more than a decade Mirza was the virtual ruler of the valley and he gave peace and orderly Government to the country. He encouraged Kashmir Art and Crafts, and trade and commerce once again thrived in the valley. The last Shahmiri ruler, Sultan Habib Shah, a weakling was deposed by his commander, and nobles raised on throne Gazi Chak, a prominent military General of the time. He was the direct descendant of Lankar Chak who had come to Kashmir towards the close of Hindu rule. The Chak rule began in Kashmir in 1561 and lasted till 1587, when Akbar, the great Moghul Emperor conquered Kashmir.

MOGHUL PERIOD

The Moghuls remained in power here, from 1587 to 1752, and in this period undoubtedly the people enjoyed peace and orderly Govt. There were some rapacious officers, but on the complaint of the people the Moghul rulers immediately removed them. It was in 1579 that illuminated Moghul emperor Akbar visited Kashmir. About eighty thousand Kashmiris were entertained by Akbar at Id-Gah. During his reign Raja Todar Mal, the great Finance and Revenue Minister, made revenue settlement of the valley, which in its broad features forms the basis of the present revenue settlement in the valley. Akbar built a new town near Hariparbat and called it Nagar-Magar and built the massive wall around the hill. The great emperor visited the valley three times, and with him, came a large number of Moghul grandees, noblemen and army generals. The fame of the valley spread throughout the country and a very large number of people started to visit the valley. But actually it was in the time of Jahangir that the beauty of the state attracted thousands of visitors to the happy valley. The great emperor visited the State thirteen times. The Moghul rulers never came alone, but were always accompanied by hundreds of Nobles, Amirs and Umras, Princes and Army Generals. Jahangir came virtually, under the spell of the scenic beauty of the place, and wherever he found a hill coming down gently to a spring or a grove of majestic Chinar trees or a beautiful lake, he utilised the place for planting a pleasure garden. Shalimar and Nishat gardens on the banks of Dál Lake, would keep Jahangir's love for natural beauty ever fresh in our memory. He laid gardens at Achabale and Verinag. Perhaps no other ruler has ever paid so much tribute to the beauty of Kashmir as Jahangir did. Shah Jahan also visited the happy valley a number of times and he too was accompanied by a large number of nobles. Owing to the long peaceful rule of the three Moghul Kings, hundreds of

people now began to come to Kashmir to find mental peace, to regain their health or attain spiritual salvation. Shah Jahan laid the garden of Chashmashai and also built a portion of Shalimar. The Moghul Governor Ali Marden Khan also laid out a number of gardens. Aurangzeb visited Kashmir only once in 1665. An interesting account of the emperor's journey to the valley has been given by a French traveller Francis Bernier who accompanied the Emperor. The traveller gives a favourable impression of the people in his book. "The Kashmiris are celebrated for wit. In poetry and sciences they are not inferior to Persians. They are also active and industrious. The workmanship, and beauty of their Palkies, bedsteads, inkstand, axes, spoons and various other things are quite remarkable, and articles of their manufacture are in use in every part of India. They perfectly understand the art of varnishing, and are eminently skilful in closely imitating the beautiful veins of a certain wood, by inlaying with gold threads so delicately wrought, that never saw anything more elegant or perfect. But what may be considered peculiar to Kashmir and the staple commodity, that which particularly promotes the trade of the country, and fills it with wealth, is the prodigious quantity of shawls which they manufacture, and which gives occupation to her children."

Aurangzeb's reign was a signal for revolts and rebellions in several parts of the country. In distant parts of the empire commenced an era of lawlessness, anarchy and disorder. Many states became independent under their subedhars who founded new independent states. A reign of disorder also started in Kashmir. The Moghul Governors began to loot and plunder the people, and at the same time ruthlessly started a policy of religious bigotry and fanaticism. There was absolute chaos in northern India after the invasion of Nadir Shah of Persia. The people of Kashmir could no longer tolerate the misrule of Moghul satraps, and accordingly when Ahmad Shah Abdali of Kabul was at Lahore in 1752, two Kashmir noblemen M Muquim Kant and Khwaja Zahir Didmari, waited upon him at Lahore, and disgracefully requested him to bring Kashmir under his control.

AFGAN RULE: 1752 - 1819

Ahmad Shah, a free hooter of Nadir Shah gladly accepted this offer and immediately despatched a strong and a powerful Afgan army under the command of Abdullah Khan Ishik Aqasi, to occupy the valley. The Moghul satrap offered a strong resistance, but was defeated and the Afgan Governor planted the Afgan flag on the ramparts of Akbar's town at Nogar. The rule of Moghuls in Kashmir came to an end although it continued to exist in northern India, nominally upto 1857. Kashmir remained a dependency of Kabul rulers till 1819, roughly a period of 67 years:

The Pathan rule is the darkest period in the history of our state. The rulers of Kabul were great despots, and they ruled all the parts of their kingdom ruthlessly with an iron hand. The corner stone of their policy was terror. As many as twenty eight Durrani Subedars governed Kashmir during these sixty seven years. The Kashmir nobleman had expected that Abdali would give them a good and a stable government, but the very first Afgan governor Abdullah Khan Aquasi, immediately after assuming powers started a reign of terror. People began to be looted and killed indiscriminately, and even petty Afgan soliders began to amass wealth by the foulest possible means. Most of the well to do people of the valley were summoned by the Governor to his palace, and ordered to surrender all their wealth on pain of death. Their houses were completely sacked, and many people were put to sword. There was complete gloom and despair on every side. All the prosperity of the valley was gone, and the people could not even move on the streets, for fear of being robbed of even their scanty clothing. Each and everyday for a Kashmiri was a day of struggle and uncertainty. As ill luck would have it, only weak and worthless Arnirs governed

Kabul, after the death of Abdali. These Amirs would either be quickly deposed or assassinated. Naturally accession of every new Amir would mean appointment of a new Subedar in Kashmir. Hence every Governor expected his recall or dismissal at any time. This uncertainty made these rapacious governors ruthless, and they squeezed every penny from the people mercilessly. It is true, that all sections of people suffered here during their time, but the chief victims of these fiends were the Hindus. Shias and Bombas of Jhelum valley. It is strange that during this dark period a Hindu also became a Governor here. His name was Raja Sukh Jeevan Mal. It was only in his time that Kashmir heaved a sigh of relief. He was afterwards defeated and killed by Ahmad Shah. The Pathan rulers are now only remembered for their brutality and cruelty, and it is said of them that they thought no more of cutting off heads than pluck a flower.

SIKH RULE: 1819 – 1846

At last the reign of terror broke the patience of the peace loving people, and a deputation of Kashmiris led by Pandit Birbal Dhar, and his son Pandit Rajakak Dhar, left for Lahore and fervently requested Maharaja Ranjit Singh to conquer Kashmir. Three prominent Muslims helped Pandit Birbal Dhar in his escape from the valley. They were Abdul Qadoos Gojwari, MallickZulfiqar and Malik Kamgar. In 1819., 30,000 soliders of Maharaja Ranjit Singh attacked Kashmir, defeated the Pathans, and the state became a part of Ranjit Singh's empire. On receipt of the news ,Maharaja Ranjit Singh bestowed honours in Dhar family and Lahore was illuminated for three days, Sikh rule lasted for only 27 years and during this period 10 Governors administered the country one after another, out of whom the last two were Muslims. In the beginning Sikh rule also proved to be oppressive. "It must have been an intense relief", writes Lawrence, " to all classes in Kashmir to see the downfall of the evil rule of Pathan, and to none was the relief greater than to the peasants who had been cruelly fleeced by the rapacious sardars of Kabul. I do not mean to suggest that the Sikh rule was benign or good, but it was at any rate better than that of the Pathans. "The Sikh rule over Kashmir lasted only for a brief span of time, during which the rulers at Lahore were far too pre-occupied at home to pay any attention to the affairs of this outlying province of theirs. The misery of the people increased due to natural calamities as well, such as premature snow falls, which would destroy a ripe rice crop leading to famines. These famines were followed by diseases like cholera and plague, resulting in a heavy loss of life. Thousands of people migrated to India during these hard days, and no wonder the population of the valley came down to two lakhs from 8 lakhs.

Mr. Ranel Tayler who visited Kashmir in 1846 writes about Kashmir, "The town presents a very miserable appearance. The houses made of wood are tumbling in every direction. The streets are filthy for want of drainage, none of the bazars looked wellfilled and prospseous and altogether my ride made me very unhappy ". Moorcraft who visited the valley in 1835 writes, "Everywhere the people were in most abject condition, not one sixteenth of the cultivable land is under cultivation, and the inhabitants are starving. They were in a condition of extreme weakness Villages were half deserted and those who lived there were the semblance of extreme sickness. Villages were filthy and swarming with beggars. The rural folk on the whole were half naked and miserably emaciated and presented a ghostly picture of poverty and starvation ". Such was the general condition of the state when Maharaja Ranjit Singh died in 1830. His death was a signal for the mutiny of Sikh Army which become uncontrollable, and plunge entire Punjab into confusion and chaos.

DOGRA PERIOD : 1846 - 1957

The two Anglo-Sikh wars led to the final extinction of Sikh sovereignty in the Punjab and by virtue of the treaties of Lahore and Amritsar the British who had by now become undisputed masters of India, transferred and made over in perpetuity, the independent position to the Maharaja Gulab Singh and heirs male of his body, all the hilly and mountainous country situated to the east of Indus, and west of Ravi river. In consideration of this transfer Maharaja Gulab Singh paid to the British government the sum of 75 lakhs of rupees. Maharaja Gulab Singh entered Srinagar on 9th November 1848 at 8 in the morning. The Dogra royal line traces its descent from the ancient Kshatriyas mentioned frequently in Mahabharata. The Dogra ruler claimed that they belong to the Surya Vanshi (sun born) race. Maharaja Gulab Singh was a man of great vigour, foresight and determination. He repressed opposition and crime with an iron hand and he was universally feared and respected. He crushed gangs of organized plunderers, and murderers in the valley known as Galwans, and also broke the power of Bombas and Khokhas the inhabitants of Jhelum valley region below Varamulla, who brought havoc to every home in the valley by following a policy of arson and plunder. Large numbers of forts were built in their territory which were garrisoned with troops. It was because of his energetic measures that the conditions of the people improved and after many years some confidence was inspired in the permanence of administration. The people got a spell of peace and order, after centuries of lawlessness. The greatest service of the first Dogra ruler is the foundation he laid of the modern Jammu and Kashmir State. It was Gulab Singh who conquered one by one different places and regions of the state, Jammu, Poonch, Ram Nagar, Basoli, Bhahderwah, Kishtwar, Bhimbar, Rajauri, Sikardu, Kharmang, Kiris, Khaplu, Sheghar, Astor Gilgit, Chitral, Yasin, Hunza, Nagar, and Puniyal. In the words of K. M. Panikar an area of more than eighty thousand sq. miles including part of Tibet, as well as part of Pamier, besides the genuinely kingdoms of Jammu and Kashmir came into Maharaja Gulab Singh's possession. This area had never been effectively united under one ruler and much of it with of course, the exception of the valley of Kashmir had never known any settled govt. "Writes P. N. Bamzai: "Maharaja Gulab Singh is the only Indian ruler to have carved Out a state during the 19th century out of the wreckage of the great kingdom of Sikhs. Moreover he is the only Indian ruler to have extended the frontiers of India to their natural boundary ." Even Dr. Soft who is not very kind in his comments writes about him: "Gulab Singh was unquestionably a remarkable figure in the history of Northern India during the first half of the 19th Century. He was a distinguished soldier and diplomat and knew the state craft of his own days exceedingly well."

The Maharaja died in 1857 after a rule of 11 years, during which period he laid the foundation of a sound system of administration. He was succeeded by Maharaja Ranbir Singh who ruled from 1857 to 1885. It was in his time that the rule of law commenced in the state. Almost all the laws, civil and criminal, which the British had introduced in India were with some modifications made applicable to the state. The various state departments were organised on the pattern of departments as these existed in British India. A slight attempt was also made to assess the amount of land revenue at a fixed amount.

In 1885 Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh ascended the throne and he ruled for a period of 40 years. It is in the time of this Maharaja that the real modernisation of the state took place and several progressive reforms were carried through. Sir Walter Lawrence carried the first assessment of land revenue system in the state on scientific lines. The two mountain roads-Jhelum valley road and Banihal Cart road were built linking the state with the rest of India. A scheme for drainage of the valley

reclaiming waste-land and preventing floods by digging flood channels was put into operation. Construction of water reservoir at Harwan and establishment of electric generating plant at Mohra was also undertaken during this period. Two colleges viz Shri Amar Singh and Shri Pratap Singh Colleges, in the state besides large number of education institutions were also established by the order of the Maharaja. The administrative machinery was completely overhauled. There was development in the means of communication and telegraphs, telephones and post offices were opened in many places. During this period large number of people, mostly Europeans began to visit the valley. The fame of the valley, its climate and beauty spread in all parts of the world and it can truly be said that an era of tourist traffic started in right earnest in the state. Many efforts were made by Englishmen to obtain the right of purchasing land here for building houses. This would have turned Kashmir into a British Colony. The Maharaja stoutly refused to entertain the proposal, and this actually led to the construction of House Boats. After the death of Maharaja Pratap Singh his nephew Maharaja Sir Hari Singh ascended the throne in 1925. He continued to govern the state till 1950. During this period, large number of Indians and also foreigners came to enjoy the bracing climate of the valley. Gulmarg before independence almost looked like an English town during summer. The same was the case with Nagin Lake Maharaja Hari Singh modernized the state and carried out a large number of reforms. It was in his time that the popular elements began to be associated with the Government. The most important thing that had far reaching consequences in the future history of the state was the birth of political parties and the growth of political consciousness in the state during this period. But even more important was the liberation of the country from the British Yoke in 1947, that ended all the traces of foreign domination, absolutism and autocracy in our country. It was on 26th Jan. 1957 that the Kashmir Constituent Assembly ended the hereditary rule of the Hindu monarchy in the state exactly after one hundred and ten years of its establishment.

Overview of Kashmiri Rulers

Kashmir in 3rd Century BC

The Imperial history of Kashmir begins in the third century BC with the rule of Asoka. At that time, Kashmiris became famous throughout Asia as learned, cultured and humane and the intellectual contribution of writers, poets, musicians, and scientists to the rest of south Asia was comparable to that of ancient Greece to European civilization. SADR-U-DIN

Rinchen, a Buddhist ruler, who was converted to Islam by a famous Muslim saint Bulbul shah and given the Islamic name Sadr-u-din, became the first Muslim monarch of Kashmir. He was considered to be the wise ruler, but his reign did not last for long.

Kingdom of Shahab-Ud-Din

Shahab-ud-Din who came to the throne in 1354 is the first great king of Muslim period. Shahab-ud-Din devoted his attention to foreign expeditions, conquering Baltistan, Ladakh, Kishtwar and Jammu. Shahab-ud-Din loved learning and patronized art and architecture. In 1361 there was a devastating flood, but the atmosphere of general well being prevailed. On Shahab-ud-Din's death in 1373, Qutb-ud-Din succeeded him.

Kingdom of Qutb-Ud-Din

During Qutb-ud-Din's rule, the pace of conversion to Islam increased. Muslim from west and central Asia, in search of refuge from the Mongols, arrived in Kashmir. The most influential among them was Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA). He came with hundreds of missionaries i.e. Syeds, from Hamadan and other parts of Persia who preached Islam and made this land the land of faithful. Sir Aurel Stein writes, "Islam made its way into Kashmir not by forcible conquest, but by gradual conversion."

Kingdom of Bud Shah

After the death of Qutb-ud-Din his son Sikander took over the power in 1389. Sikander was succeeded by his younger son popularly know as Bud Shah (the great king) in 1420. During Bud Shah's long reign, which lasted until 1470, the valley prospered both economically and culturally. With the death of Bud Shah, the dynasty of the Shah Mirs began to decline.

Mughal Rule in Kashmir

Attracted by the fame of Kashmir, Mughals made several attempts to dominate it but they always failed. It was at Hamayun's ruling period that Mirza Haider Dughlat, a cousin of Babar's mother finally succeeded in conquering Kashmir in 1540. In 1555, Ghazi Chak, bringing the end to the 200-year old dynasty of Shah Mirs, became king of Kashmir. The Mughal Emperor Akbar led Kashmir's incorporation into Mughal Empire and ended the Kashmir's long history as a kingdom in its own right.

Jahangeer's Glorious Era

Of all the rulers of Kashmir Akbar's son and successor, Jehangeer, is best remembered for his love of the valley Kashmir. He ascended the throne in 1605. During his reign Jehangeer adorned Kashmir with over 700 captivating and charming gardens. Their names evoke the beauty of the place: Shalimar (abode of love) and Nishat (garden of gladness) are the two most famous.

Fall of Mughal Regime

Jehangir was succeeded by his son, Shah Jehan in 1627. He too loved Kashmir and the valley became a popular place of refuge for the Mughals during the hot summers. Aurangzeb, who came to the throne in 1658, was the last of the Mughal Emperors to make any impact on Kashmir's history.

Afghanis Arrival in Kashmir

Nadir Shah's invasion of the seat of Mughal power at Delhi in 1738 had weakened their imperial hold on Kashmir. This in turn left Kashmir at the mercy of coming rulers. With the decline of Mughal power in India the governors of Kashmir became irresponsible and cruel. In 1762, in alliance with the Dogra Rajput ruler, Raja Ranjit Dev of Jammu, the Afghans attacked Kashmir. When the Afghan leader, Ahmed Shah Durrani, died in 1772 Jawan Sher the Afghan ruler of Kashmir, set himself up as an independent ruler. Afghan domination lasted for little more than fifty years, but the period is generally remembered as one of the darkest periods of Kashmir's history.

Sikh Rule

After the overthrow of Afghan rulers, the state came under Sikh rule headed by Ranjeet Singh. Ranjeet Singh sent Colonel Mian Singh Kumedan, from Gujranwala as governor to Kashmir. Considered to be the best of all the Sikh governors, he attempted to bring the valley out of the economic chaos resulting from the 1833 famine. Gulab Singh had been Ranjit Singh's protégé for thirty years. When Ranjit Singh died, Gulab Singh, aged forty-seven, was well-placed to control events not only in the heart of the Sikh empire in Lahore but also in Kashmir. Until the death of Ranjit Singh, the East India Company had maintained cordial relations with the Sikhs; but after his death, the relationship soon fell apart. As relations deteriorated between the British and the Sikh prior to the outbreak of war in 1845, Gulab Singh played an important role, which ultimately helped to further his own territorial ambitions, enabling him to become a maharaja in his own right.

Dogra Rule

Under the Treaty of Amritsar, the Britishers sold Kashmir to Gulab Singh at a cost of 7,500,000 Nanak Shahi currency and hence commenced the Dogra rule in Kashmir. The successors of Dogra dynasty after Gulab Singh including Ranbir Singh (1858), Partab Singh (1885) and Hari Singh (1925). The latter was the last ruler of the dynasty until partition of the Sub Continent in 1947.

4. Polity



Flag of the State of Jammu and Kashmir



Logo of Jammu and Kashmir

The state of Jammu and Kashmir historically consisted of four political regions. Ladakh towards the east bordering China, Jammu towards the south bordering India and Pakistan, Kashmir Valley towards the east bordering Pakistan and Baltistan areas towards the North bordering China and Pakistan. Baltistan and a part of Kashmir Valley are under Pakistan control. Aksai Chin, claimed by India to be a part of Ladakh, is under Chinese control, while the rest is under Indian control. Pakistan and Indian controlled parts are separated by Line of Control (LOC).

Capital: Srinagar (Summer Capital of J&K State)

Jammu (Winter Capital of J&K State)

The state of Jammu and Kashmir in contrary to other states has got two capital cities. Like all the states of India, Indian controlled part of Jammu and Kashmir has a multi-party democratic system of governance. Main political parties include the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC), the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (PDP). The other mainstream political parties are Panthers Party, Peoples Democratic Front (PDF), Communist party of India (CPIM), Bartiya Janta Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Front (JKDF) etc... Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad replaced PDP's Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in November 2005. The State is presently under Governor's rule w.e.f 7th of July 2008. Fresh elections in the state are being held by the end of 2008

The Constitution of India grants Jammu and Kashmir special Autonomous area status as a temporary provision through Article 370.

Jammu and Kashmir is the only Indian state that has its own flag. Designed by the Government of India, the state flag of Jammu and Kashmir is the native plough on a red background which is a symbol of labour. The three stripes represent the three administrative divisions of the state, namely Jammu, Vale of Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Darbar Move :- Darbar Move is a 135 year old tradition of the Jammu and Kashmir State in which State Secretariate and other office complexes along with the accommodations of the employees shifts from one State Capital to another. As per the schedule Darbar opens in Srinagar on Monday in the 1-2 week of May and closes on Friday of the last week of October and reopens in Jammu on Monday of the 1-2 week of November and closes on last week of April.

LEGISLATION

PART III PERMANENT RESIDENTS

(6) (I) Every person who is, or is deemed to be, a citizen of India under the provisions of the Constitution of India shall be a permanent resident of the State, if on the fourteenth day of May, 1954.

(a) he was a State subject of class I or of class II: or

(b) having lawfully acquired immovable property in the State, he has been ordinarily resident in the State for not less than ten years prior to that date.

(2) Any person who, before the fourteenth day of May, 1954 was a State subject of Class I or of Class II and who, having migrated after the first day of March, 1947, to the territory -now included in Pakistan, returns to the State under a permit for resettlement in the State or for permanent return issued by or under the authority of any law made by the State Legislature shall on such return be a permanent resident of the State.

(3) In this section, the expression "State subject of Class I or of Class II" shall have the same -meaning as the State Notification No I-L/84 dated the twentieth April. '1927, read with State Notification No 13/L dated the twenty- seventh June, 1932.

7. Unless the context otherwise requires, all references in any existing law to hereditary State subject or to State subject of class I or of Class II or of class III shall be construed as references to permanent residents of the State.

8. Nothing in foregoing provisions of this part shall derogate from the power of the State legislature to make any law defining the classes the persons who are, or shall be permanent residents of the State.

9. A Bill marking provision for any of the following matters, namely.

(a) defining or altering the definition of, the classes of persons who are, or shall be, per-manent residents of the State;

(b) conferring on permanent residents any special rights or privileges;

(c) regulating or modifying any special rights or privileges enjoyed by permanent residents;

shall be deemed to be passed by either House of the Legislature only if It is passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of that House.

10. The permanent residents of the State shall have all the rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution of India.

PART v THE EXECUTIVE THE SADAR-I-RIYASAT

26. (1) The Head of the State shall be designated as the Sadar-i-Riyasat.

(2) The executive power of the State shall be vested in the Sadar-i-Riyasat and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with this Constitution.

(3) Nothing in this Section shall:

(a) be deemed to transfer to the Sadar-i-Riyasat any functions conferred by any existing law on any other authority; or

(b) prevent the State legislature from conferring by law functions on any authority subordinate to the Sadar-i-Riyasat.

27. The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall be the person who for the time being is recognised by the President as such:

Provided that no person shall be so recognised unless he:

(a) is a permanent resident of the state;

(b) is not less than twenty-five years of age; and

(c) has been elected as Sadar-i-Riyasat by a majority of the total membership of the Legislative Assembly in the manner set out in the First Schedule.

28. (1) The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

(2) The Sadar-i-Riyasat may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.

(3) Subject to the foregoing provision of this section, the Sadar-i-Riyasat shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that he shall notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

29. A person who holds or has held office as Sadar-i-Riyasat shall, subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, be eligible for reselection to that office.

30. (1) The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall not be a member of either House of Legislature and if a member of either House be elected and recognised as Sadar-i-Riyasat, he shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in the House on the date on which he enters upon his office as Sadar-i-Riyasat.

(2) The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall not hold any other office of profit.

(3) The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall be entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as are specified in the second schedule.

(4) The emoluments and allowances of the Sadar-i-Riyasat shall not be diminished during his term of office.

31. The Sadar-i-Riyasat and every person acting as Sadar-i-Riyasat shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, or in his absence, the senior-most judge of the High Court available, in an oath or affirmation in the following form that is to say "I, A. B., do swear in the name of God that I will faithfully discharge the functions of the Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well being of the people of State."

32. The Sadar-i-Riyasat may be removed from his office by the President if an address by the Legislative Assembly supported by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership is presented to the president praying for such removal on the ground of violation of the Constitution.

33. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Sadar-i-Riyasat by reason of his death, resignation or removal or when the Sadar-i-Riyasat is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence, illness or any other cause, the functions of the office shall, until the assumption of office by a newly elected Sadar-i-Riyasat or the

resumption of duties by the Sadar-i-Riyasat, as the case may be, discharged by such person as the President may on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers of the State, recognise as the acting Sadar-i-Riyasat.

34. The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offense against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.

PART VI THE STATE LEGISLATIVE

COMPOSITION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

46. There shall be Legislature for the State which shall consist of the Sadar-i-Riyasat and two Houses be known respectively as the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

47. (1) The Legislative Assembly shall consist of one hundred members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State; Provided that the Sadar-i-Riyasat may, if he is of opinion that women are not adequately represented in the Assembly nominate not more than two women to be members thereof.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such a manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State. Explanation: In this sub-section, the expression "Population" means the population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published.

(3) Upon the completion of each census, the number, extent and boundaries of the territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as the Legislature may be law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the Legislative Assembly until the dissolution of the then existing Assembly.

48. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 47, until the area of the State under the occupations of Pakistan ceases to so occupied and the people residing in that area elect their representatives

(a) twenty-five seats in the Legislative Assembly shall remain vacant and shall not be taken into account for reckoning the total membership of the Assembly; and the said area shall be excluded in delimiting the territorial Constituencies Under Section 47.

49. (1) There shall be reserved in the Legislative Assembly for the Scheduled Castes in the State a number of seats which shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats in the Assembly as the population of the Scheduled Castes bears to the population of the State.

Explanation: In this sub-section:

(a) "population" has the same meaning as in sub-section (2) of section 47; and
(b) "Scheduled Castes" means the caste, races or tribes or part of, or groups within castes, races or tribes which are for the purposes of the Constitution of India deemed to be Scheduled Casts in relation to the State under the provisions of article 341 of that Constitution.

(2) The provisions of sub-section (1) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of five years from the commencement of this Constitution:

Provided that such cesser shall not affect any representation in the Legislative Assembly until the dissolution of the then existing Assembly:

50. (1) The Legislative Council shall consist of thirty six members, chosen in the manner provided in this section.

(2) Eleven members shall be elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are residents of the Province of Kashmir and are not members of the Legislative Assembly.

(3) Eleven members shall be elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are residents of the Province of Jammu and are not members of the Legislative Assembly.

Provided that of the members so elected, at least one shall be a resident of Doda District and at least one shall be a resident of Poonch District.

(4) One member shall be elected by each of the following electorates, namely

(a) the members of municipal council, town area committees and notified area committees in the Province of Kashmir;

(b) the members of municipal council, town area committees, and notified area committees in the Province of Jammu;

(c) permanent residents who have been for at least three years engaged in teaching in educational institutions recognised by the Government in the Province of Kashmir; and

(d) permanent residents who have been for at least three years engaged in teaching in educational institutions recognised by the Government in the Province of Jammu.

(5) Two members shall be elected by each of the following electorates, namely:

(a) the members of the Panchayats and such other local bodies in the Province of Kashmir as the Sadar-i-Riyasat may by order specify; and

(b) the members of the Panchayats and such other local bodies in the Province of Jammu as the Sadar-i-Riyasat may by order specify.

(6) Six members shall be nominated by the Sadar-i-Riyasat, not more than three of whom shall be person belonging to any of the socially or economically backward classes in the State, and the others shall be persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of matters such as literature, science, art, co-operative movement and social service.

(7) Elections under sub-section (2) and (3) shall be held in accordance with the system of pro-portional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

51. A person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in the Legislature unless he:

(a) is a permanent resident of the State;

(b) is, in the case of a seat in the Legislative Assembly, not less than twenty-five years of age, and in the case of a seat in the Legislative Council, not less than thirty years of age; and

(c) Possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed in that behalf by or under any law made by Legislature.

52. (1) The Legislative Assembly, unless dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and not longer, and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly; Provided that the said period may, while a Proclamation of Emergency issued under article 352 of the Constitution of India is in operation, be extended by the State Legislature by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.

(2) The Legislative Council shall not be subject to dissolution but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof shall retire, as soon as may be, on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Legislature by law.

53. (1) The Sadar-i-Riyasat shall from time to time summon each House of the Legislature to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

(2) The Sadar-i-Riyasat may from time to time...

(a) prorogue the House or either house (b) dissolve the Legislative Assembly.

54. (1) The Sadar-i-Riyasat may address either House of Legislature, or both Houses assembled together, and may for that purpose require the attendance of members.

(2) The Sadar-i-Riyasat may send messages to either House, whether with respect to a Bill then pending in the Legislature or otherwise and a House to which any message is so sent shall with all convenient dispatch consider any matter required by the message to be taken into consideration.

55. (1) At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year, the Sadar-i-Riyasat shall address both Houses of Legislature assembled together and inform the Legislature of the cause of its summons.

(2) Provision shall be made by the rules regulating the procedure of either House for the allotment of time for discussion of the matters referred to in such address.

56. Every Minister and the Advocate General shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings, of both Houses and to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, any Committee of the Legislature of which he may be named a member, but shall not, by virtue of this section, be entitled to vote.

On March 30, 1965 the State constitution got amended through which Sadar-i-Riyasat and Prime Minister were renamed as Governor and Chief Minister respectively.

The State Legislature is a Bicameral House comprising of State Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. At present the strength of the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) of the State is 87 seats comprising 46 for Kashmir, 37 for Jammu, 4 for Ladakh and 2 nominated members. The number of Legislative Council (Upper House) seats is 36. The strength of the Minister's Council for the Chief Minister of the State is restricted to 1/4th of the strength of State Legislative Assembly.

Saffron “Pride of Kashmir”



Saffron Collection in Process

5. *Judiciary*

J & K HIGH COURT

HISTORY

The full fledged High Court of Judicature for the Jammu and Kashmir State was established in the year 1928 prior to the establishment of High Court of Judicature. The Ruler of the State (Maharaja) was the final authority in the administration of justice. In the year 1889, the British Government asked the then Ruler of the Maharaja Partap Singh to appoint a Council and the Judicial member of the Council exercised all the appellate powers both on civil and criminal side. The State having two provinces - Jammu and Kashmir, had chief judges exercising judicial authority but they acted under the superintendence and control of the Law member of the Council. Later the Council was abolished and a Minister designated as Judge of the High Court was appointed by the Ruler to decide judicial cases. In 1927 a new Constitution was made by the then Ruler of the State and instead of Law Member, a Ministry in the Judicial Department was created.

Thereafter, in 1928, by virtue of Order No. I dated 26.3.1928, the High Court of Judicature was established and for the first time the High Court was to consist of The Chief Justice and two Judges. On 26.3.1928, the Maharaja appointed Lala Kanwar Sein as the First Chief Justice of the Court and Rai Bahadur Lala Bodh Raj Sawhney and Khan Sahib Aga Syed Hussain as Puisne Judges. The usual place of sitting of the High Court used to be Jammu and Srinagar.

In 1939 the Ruler promulgated the Constitution Act of 1939 which incorporated the provisions of law relating to the High Court and conferred upon the High Court a substantial measure of Independence. The High Court was invested with powers of superintendence and control over the Courts / District judiciary.

The 1939 (1939 A.D.) Act also constituted 3 members Board of Judicial Advisers akin to the Privy Council in British India. The Board was to advise the Ruler in the disposal of the civil and criminal appeals against the decisions of the High Court. The Board of Judicial Advisers at the time of its abolition by the Constitution Act 1956 had 17 appeals pending before it. On request of the Chief Justice, the Government of India in with the Chief Justice of India, constituted a Special Bench of the Supreme Court of India consisting of Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan, chief Justice of India, Justice S.R.Das and Justice Ghulam Hassan for disposing off the pending 17 appeals. The Bench heard the appeals in Srinagar and upheld the judgment of the High court in all the 17 appeals. It was a historical event, when a Bench of Supreme Court held sitting outside the place of seat at Delhi till date this is the sole instance. On 10.9.1943, Letters Patent was conferred on the High, Court.

In 1954 vide Constitution Application Order of 1954; the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was extended to the State of J&K. Under Art.32(2-A) of the Constitution of India, the State High Court was for the first time given power to issue writs for enforcement of the fundamental rights so far as they are applicable to the State of J&K. In 1957, by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Act, an independent judicial body with the High Court of Judicature at the top was created. The High Court has at present a sanctioned strength of 14 Judges including 7 Permanent Judges and 3 Additional Judges from May to end October the Chief Justice and the Administrative Wing of High Court shifts to Srinagar and from November to end April, the HQ is at Jammu. However, Court sections of both the Jammu and Srinagar Wings of the High Court function throughout the year.

6. Climate

Climate exerts a profound influence on the inhabitants of any region. Their social, cultural, economic and other aspects of life are directly or indirectly governed by climate. The climate of the state ranges from the burning and the scorching heat of the plains of (Jammu Division) to the snow-capped heights of Gulmarg (Kashmir) and the mud peak of Mount Godwin Austin (Ladakh) 21,265 feet above sea level, the second highest in the world. All these represent the three different climatic zones.

From alpine (Ladakh region) to the sub tropical (Jammu region) the extreme variants of climate in Jammu and Kashmir are due to its location and topography. The sheltered valley of Kashmir, however, exhibits an exception to its peripheral region. Broadly, the state of Jammu and Kashmir comprises three distinct climatic regions: cold arid desert areas of Ladakh, temperate Kashmir Valley, and the humid sub-tropical region of Jammu. In this context, Lawrence's quotation boldly stands out:

"Every hundred feet of elevation brings some new phase of climate and the vegetation, and in a short ride of thirty miles one can pass from overpowering heat to climate delightfully cool".

The temperature in the region varies spatially. Leh is the coldest (-28°C average) while Jammu is the hottest. Mean monthly temperature is lowest in January and highest in July except in Jammu where highest temperature is experienced in June. Mean monthly temperature in January varies from -17°C at Drass to 14°C at Jammu; Kargil and Leh being other stations of below freezing average. Considering the overall distribution of climatic elements, four units become obvious:

- The windward (Jammu region)
- The leeward (Ladakh region)
- The high altitude Kashmir (Himadri, Pir Panjal),
- The Kashmir valley

The climate of the valley of Kashmir has its own peculiarities. The seasons are marked with sudden change and the climate can be divided into six seasons of two months each.

Seasons of Kashmir valley

Season	Dates	Local terms
Spring	16 March to 15 May	Sont
Summer	16 May to 15 July	Retkol(Grishm)
Rainy Season	16 July to 15 September	Waharat
Autumn	16 September to 15 November	Harud
Winter	16 November to 15 January	Wandah
Ice Cold	16 January to 15 March	Shishur

The aforementioned climatologic divide does not apply only to Kashmir Valley but to parts of Jammu, which like Kashmir Valley, are subjected to snowfall and a severe winter. Many parts of the Ladakh region are also subjected to heavy snowfall and others to severe dry cold. There is such heavy snowfall on the way to Ladakh from the valley that it remains cut off by road for about 5 - 6 months every year. Pooch,

Rajouri & Uri belts are moderately hot while as Baderwah, Doda, Ramban belts have different climate.

7. Physiography

The territory of the state is divided into seven physiographic zones closely associated with the structural components of the western Himalayas. These include:

The Plains: The plains of the Jammu region are characterized by interlocking sandy alluvial fans that have been deposited during the Pleistocene age by the streams flowing from the foothills and by a much-dissected pediment (eroded bedrock surface) covered by loams and loess (fine deposits of silt).

The Foothills: Rising from 2002 to 7002 feet, the foothills form the outer and inner zones.

The Lesser Himalayas: Composed of Permo-Carboniferous volcanic rocks of granite, gneisses, quartz and slates, the Pir Panjal constitutes the first mountain rampart comprising the western-most part of the Lesser Himalayas.

The Greater Himalayas: This consists ranges reaching more than 20,013 feet (6100 metres) in altitude. These ranges act as a climatic divide and stop the cold wind coming from Central Asia.

Valley of Kashmir: Between the Pir Panjal and the western end of the Great Himalayan ranges lies a deep asymmetrical basin called the Vale of Kashmir. Lawrence described it as:

“If one looks at the map of the territories of His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir one sees a white foot-print set in a mass of black mountains. This is the valley of Kashmir, known to its inhabitants as Kashmir”.

The Upper Indus Valley: The valley of the upper Indus river follows the geological strike (structural trend) westwards from the Tibetan border to the point in the Pakistani sector where it rounds the great mountainous mass of Nanga Parbat to run southwards in deep gorges cut across the strike. In its upper reaches, gravel terraces flank the river; each tributary builds an alluvial fan out into the main valley. The town of Leh stands on such a fan, 11,483 feet (3500 meters) above sea level.

Mountain Ranges

The **Karakoram range**, Zaskar range, Nun Kun range and the Nanga Parbat are among the important mountain ranges in the region. Other ranges include the Shivaliks, Pir Panjal range and its offshoots including Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts. Parts of the Western Himalayas also lie in the region.

The Karakoram Range is glaciated and rises from dry plateaus characterized by extreme temperatures. The Karakoram Range has some of the world's highest mountain peaks and huge glaciers such as the Baltoro glacier. The temperatures in these parts are very low and the region is snow covered due to the extremely cold temperature. The second highest peak in the world, mount K2 (28,264 feet or 8,615 metres), lies in



the Karakoram Range. Some of the other mountain peaks in these ranges include Gasherbrum peak, Distaghil Sar peak and Saser Kangri peak. The Karakoram Range forms a geographical divide in-between Central Asia and India. The Karakoram Range stretches for about 500 kilometers in length. Because of the fact that the Karakoram Range is situated at an extremely high altitude, the area is very sparsely populated. Several important mountain passes, for example the Karakoram pass and Nubra pass, lie in this region.

The **Zaskar Range** lies to the north of the Himalayas. The Zaskar range is divided from the main Himalayas by the Stud valley and the Tsarap valley. This Mountain range lies 6000 meters above the sea level. The Zaskar Range geographically divides the Zaskar region from the Ladakh region. The Zaskar range has an area of 15220 square kilometers and lies at about 7055.1 metres above the sea level. The Zaskar Range lies in-between the Ladakh and Kashmir border. An important mountain pass in this region is the Bawalocha pass.

The **Nanga Parbat Range** is at about a height of 8107.8 meters above the sea level. This region lies in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) area.

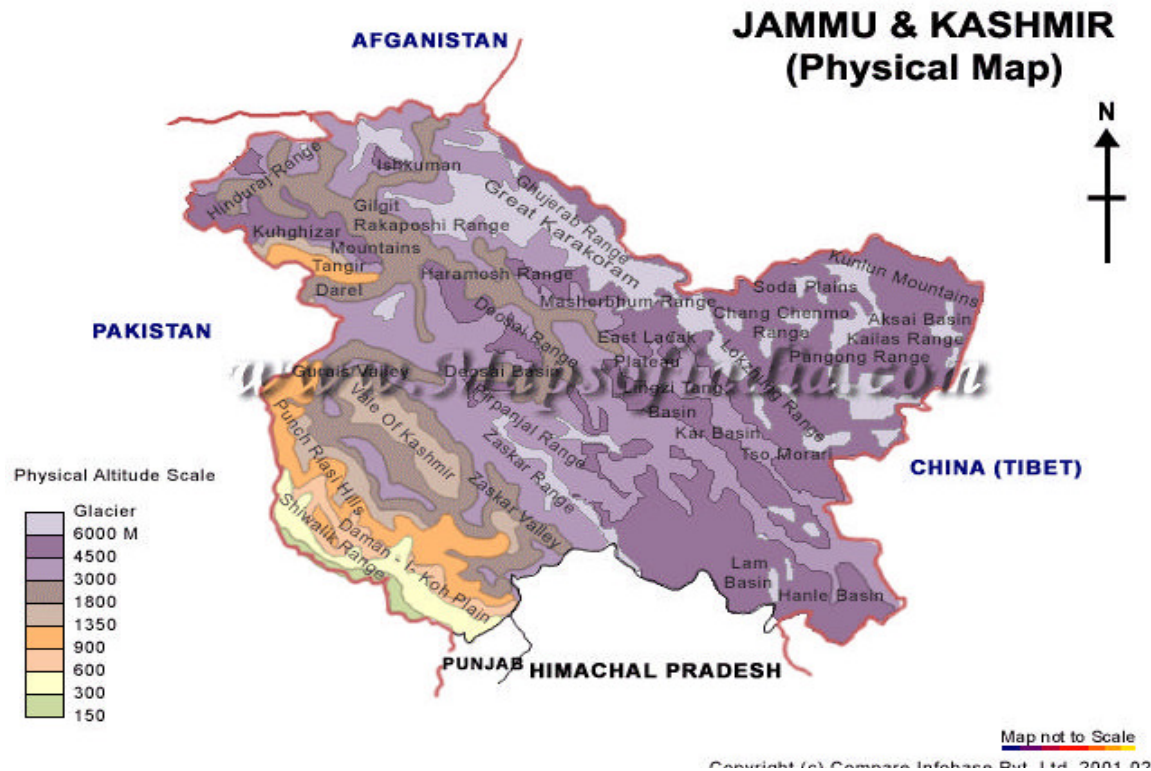
The **Shivaliks** are the youngest and the most newly formed range that constitute the Himalayan chain, this region is rich in conifers and has some of the most attractive and frequently visited tourist destinations. Some of the well-known hill stations in this area are Kangra, Dalhousie, Kullu, Shimla, Nanital, Dehradun, Manali, Dharamsala, Mussorie and Kufri. This area is known for its picturesque and natural beauty.

The **Pir Panjal Range** lies on the south of the Himalayas and is approximately 5000 metres above the sea level. The Pir Panjal Range separates the Jammu region from the Kashmir Valley. This region has several trekking trails that attract tourists from the world over. The Doda region is an offshoot of the Pir Panjal Range and is well known for its tourist attractions, which include trekking trails and health spas and resorts. The Poonch district in the Pir Panjal range is also very popular among tourists for trekking purposes.

The altitude of the capital cities along with few other famous destinations is given as under;

Srinagar	1583 fts	Jammu	314 fts
Dachigam	1670 fts	Botanical garden	1667 fts
Ganderbal	1587 fts	Shalimar Garden	1583 fts
Shopian	2146 fts	Yusmarg	1994 fts
Gulmarg	2830 fts	katra	664 fts

Besides the complex mountain chain, innumerable rivers, springs and lakes also characterize the region. A brief geographical description follows:



RIVERS

The drainage of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is quite significant as is evident from the following drainage pattern.

The Jhelum is the main waterway of the valley of Kashmir. It rises from a spring called Verinag from where a number of tributaries join the Jhelum and make it navigable from Khannabal to Wular Lake. Its total length in the valley is 177 km.

The Ravi, is the smallest of the rivers of the Punjab. The river leaves the Himalayas at Basoli and passes close to Kathua near Madhopur where it enters the plain of the Punjab.

The Tawi river, draining the outer hill region, flows around the city of Jammu after collecting drainage to the northeast of Jammu in the interior mountains.

The Chenab river rises in the Himalayan contour of Lahul and Spiti. Two streams, more or less parallel, the Chandra and the Bhaga, form the Chandrabhaga, or the Chenab. It drains the eastern section of the southern slope of Pir Panjal.

The Indus is another important river, which originates in Tibet near Kashmir border. A considerable portion of this river flows through our neighbouring nations.

LAKES

A number of lakes are found in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Most of them are of glacial origin. Some of the important lakes of the state are as follows:

The Wular Lake in Kashmir is the largest freshwater lake in India. It is about 16 km long 9.6 kms wide with ill-defined shores. This lake lies between Bandipore



and Sopore at a distance of 75 kms.

The Dal Lake is a beautiful lake near Srinagar. It is 8 km. long and 6.4 km. wide. It is the flood-lung of the Jhelum. The famous Mughal gardens are situated around it. Floating gardens found in this lake grow a large variety of vegetables.

The Anchar Lake is a swampy area. The Sind Nullah enters this lake from one side and flows out from the other. It is about 8 km. long and 3 km. wide. Gandarbal is a famous township on its northwest bank.

The Mansbal Lake is at a distance of 29 km from Srinagar and is situated at Sopore. It is 5 km. long and 1 km wide. It is connected with Jhelum by a canal near Sumbal.

The Harwan Lake is situated at a distance of 21 km. from Srinagar. It is 278 meters long, 137 meters wide and 18 meters deep. This lake is a source of water supply to Srinagar city.

The Hokarsar Lake lies on the Baramulla road about 13 km. from Srinagar. It is about 5 km. long and 1.5 km. wide. Willow trees are grown in abundance around its banks.

The Konsarnag or Vishno Pad Lake is situated in the Pir Panjal range at a height of 13124 feet (4000 meters) above sea level to the south of Shopian. It is about 5 km. long and 3 km. wide and is the source of the river Vishav. It is at a distance of 34 km from Shopian.

The Gangabal Lake is situated at a height of 11713 feet (3,570 meters) on the peak of Harmukh Mountain.

The Sheshnag Lake is situated near Vavjan, enroute to Shri Amarnath cave. It is at a distance of 28 km. from Pahalgam.

The Neelnang Lake is situated in District Budgam at a distance of 30 km from Srinagar. It is bounded by dense forest.

There are two more lakes – Tarsar and Marsar that lie on the northern slope of the Harmukh mountain. Marsar Lake is the origin of the canal Sharab Kohl that provides water to the fountains that play in the Mughal Gardens. Marsar Lake flows into the Lidar, which is one of the largest tributaries of Jhelum.

Sokh and Dokh are two frozen lakes situated at Harmukh mountain. These are said to be two teardrops of Parvati – one a warm drop indicating happiness and another cold one showing grief.

The Pangong is a salty lake in Ladakh. It is about 6.4 km long and 3.2 to 6.4 km wide at a height of 4,267 m above sea level. The other lakes of Ladakh are Patlong, Thaled, Longzang, Pangor and Tsimoriri.

SPRINGS

Kashmir Valley abounds in numerous springs of which Verinag (the source of Jhelum), Martand (Anantnag), Achhabal (Anantnag), Kokernag (Anantnag), Chashma Shahi (famous for its fresh and digestive water situated near Srinagar on one side of the Boulevard road), Tullamulla or Khirbhawani (a sacred spring), Vicharanag, Sukhnag, Vishnosar and Harmukat Ganga in Srinagar area and Chirnagand Vasaknag in Anantnag are very famous. Besides Tata pani is the hot water spring at Rajouri, Jammu.

Golden Meadow "Sonamarg"

8. Tourist Destinations / Historical Places & Monuments

JAMMU DIVISION

Jammu is justly famous for its temples. Infact it is known as the city of temples and the every fame of its tends to overshadow its palaces, forts, forests and powerful

If Bahu Mata is the presiding deity of Jammu, the dargah of Peer Budhan Ali Shah is the other shrine that protects Jammuites. The other major tourist attraction is the Rangunath Temple Complex. Maharaja Gulab Singh began the construction of the Raghunath Mandir Complex in the crowded downtown Bazaar named after it, in 1851. It was left to his son, Ranbir Singh, to inaugurate it six years latter perhaps the most popular temple north of Benares, it contains representations of almost entire Hindu pantheon though the emphasis falls on the various incarnations of Lord Vishnu. The complex houses a rich collection of ancient texts and manuscripts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	26293 Sqkm
Rainfall	107 cms (July to September)
Population (2001)	15, 88,772
Languages	Dogri, Hindi, English, Urdu, Kashmiri, Punjabi
Best Season	October to April
Temperatures (Average)	26.2 to 4.3 degrees cent in winter. Temperatures in summer 43.0 to 23.4 Clothing: Heavy/Medium woollens in winters to light cottons in summers
Food	Every sort of vegetarian and non vegetarian food is available in multiple cuisines to suit every budget. Restaurants of all hues and shades are available all along the busy roads and other major spots. Foods suit all budgets and tastes.

Important Road Distances: Amritsar: 243 Kms; Chandigarh: 436 Kms; Delhi:586 Kms; Katra: 48 Srinagar: 305 Kms; Manali: 428 Kms; Patnitop: 112 Kms.

Tourist Map of Jammu & Kashmir



Modes of Connectivity

Roads: The State is connected to the rest of the country through just one highway (NH 1A), 400 kms stretch (approx) maintained by Border Roads Organization (BRO) of India. As Railway network of the State is in infancy stage, this has rendered the State totally dependent on road connectivity which provides links to the remote areas of the State. The Jammu – Srinagar National Highway (NH 1A) is considered to be the most expensive road for maintenance in the world.

Railways: Because of the difficult terrain Railway network has not developed as in other parts of the Country. At present Jammu is the Rail head of the State and the line has been extended upto District Udampur only (90 Kms). The work on Udampur – Baramulla rail line is under progress.

Airports: There are three major airports in the state providing aerial transport among three regions of the State and the Country. Out of the three Srinagar airport has been upgraded as international airport named as Sheikh-ul- Alam Airport, while as the facilities at Jammu and Leh airports are also being upgraded. One more airport at Kargil headquarters is connected by Decota service.

Traditional Routes prior to 1948

Srinagar- Muzaffarabad road was the prime route to the valley of Kashmir prior to 1948. Opening of Bus Service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road across the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan after 58 years in April, 2005 is a ray of hope for the traders. Prior to 1948, Kashmiri goods, including fruits, almonds, walnuts and handicraft items, used to be traded via what was then Kashmir's main trade highway, the Jhelum Valley road also known as Srinagar – Muzaffarabad road. After Pakistan backed guerrilla's invaded Kashmir in 1948, the LoC – a ceasefire line – became the defacto border and no movement was allowed on this road.

After the 2005 earthquake, India and Pakistan opened the LoC at five points, allowing divided families to cross over freely and meet. The five points are at Nauseri-Tithwal, Charkote-Uri, Hajipur-Uri, Rakwalkot-Poonch and Tattapani-Mendhar.

Poonch-Rawalkote road is the second across the Line of Control (LoC) route that was thrown open in June, 2006 after the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route. The J & K Government is preparing a highway for trade between India and Pakistan through the Poonch-Rawalkot route which will become a major trade route between the two parts of Kashmir. So far this road has met the aspirations of the divided families from the two sides of the LoC. Now it would boost the trade between the business communities of Jammu and Kashmir and the other side of Kashmir.

Another trade could be established on **Sialkote-Suchetgarh** border which can also prove to be a trans-border trader centre for both the countries subject to signing of the formal agreement on Cross Border trade between the two countries on the already opened LoC points. The process of discussion for finalization of agreement is already going on.

Kargil- Askardu was another traditional route between Kashmir and Pakistan from Ladakh region of the State.

Mughal Road was the main route constructed by Mughal emperors through valley of Kashmir who remained in power here, from 1587 to 1752. It was in 1579 that illuminated Moghal Emperor Akbar who visited Kashmir and was attracted by the beauty, Scenery and Pleasant climate of the valley. After conquering Kashmir Mughal emperors built roads for easy travelling to Kashmir via Poonch from Delhi. Later on successors of Akbar always visited Kashmir and laid Gardens here and did stay here during summer. This route is still used by the people who are living alongside of this road. The State Government has taken steps to reinstate the Mughal road to its glory and work is in process for its maintenance and widening. This route is considered to be the safest of all routes connecting Kashmir Valley to the rest of the India. Shopian is located on the famous Mughal Road likely to connect the Jammu Region via Rajouri Poonch with Kashmir Valley Shortly.

Silk Route holds a special significance for Jammu & Kashmir as the state has historically enjoyed a distinct place in the region. Though J&K roots are firmly grounded in south Asia, the place has been a part of the cultural landscape of the central Asia for the last seventeen centuries. A serious effort is on since 1990, to start renegotiating routes, which connect Asia with Europe. A modern version of the ancient silk Route has gradually taken shape, Also known as Asian highway, this route is expected to start in Tokiyo and terminate in Istanbul passing through north and South Korea, China, Thailand, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Afganistan, Iran and America. The silk route has always played vital role as a connecting bridge between Asia and Europe, serving as a fundamental link for exchanging crafts, ideas, technologies and beliefs.

GENERAL TOURISM IN JAMMU

Katra: 50 kms from Jammu. This small town serves as the base camp for visiting the famous shrine of Vaishnodeviji in the Trikuta Hills. The shrine is approachable on foot along a 12 kms long well laid foot-path. Every year, nearly 4 million pilgrims pass through Katra on their way to Vaishnodeviji. Accommodation is available in Tourist Bungalows, Yatrika and a number of private hotels, beside pilgrims' sarais'.

Patnitop: 104 kms from Jammu. This famous hill resort is perched on a beautiful plateau, at an altitude of 2024 metres across which the Jammu-Srinagar Highway passes. Enveloped by thickly wooded forests, Patnitop offers beautiful picnic spots, peaceful walks and breathtaking views of the mountainscape of the Chenab basin. In winter, the resort is generally covered with a thick mantle of snow thus providing opportunities for various snow games including skiing. It is the best developed tourist spot of Jammu and is second to none in its natural charm, climate, pine forests and lush green cover.

Sanasar: 119 kms from Jammu and only 17 kms from Patnitop, Sanasar is cup shaped meadow surrounded by gigantic conifers. A place for a quite holiday, the meadow has now been developed as a golf course. It also provides opportunities for para-gliding

Batote: 125 kms from Jammu Situated at an altitudéof 1560 metres on the Jammu Srinagar National Highway, this resort straddles the forested slopes of the Patnitop mountain range, overlooking the spectacular lie of the Chenab gorge. This place is a very well developed tourist resort with lots of commercial activity and facilities.

Mantalai: Situated a few kilometers further away from Shud Mahadev, Mantalai is surrounded by lush deodar forests, at an altitude of over 2000 metres. It is believed that Lord Shiva had got married to the Goddess Parvati here

Mansar Lake: 60 kms. A beautiful lake of District Samba, fringed by forest-covered hills. Boating facilities are available on the spot. Every year around Baisakhi, a food and crafts festival is organised here by J&K Tourism.



Akhnoor: 32 Kms. south west of Jammu situated on the banks of mighty Chenab river is the historic town of Akhnoor. This town is associated with the legend of Soni-Mahiwal. Ruins of the Indus-Valley Civilization are to be seen along the river bank commanding a panoramic view all around.

Dogra Art Gallery: This is located in the erstwhile Pink Hall of the old Mubarak Mandi Palace Complex. This museum houses 800 rare and exquisite paintings from different schools of paintings viz: Basohli, Jammu and Kangra. Gold painted bow and arrow of Shah Jehan and a number carpentry tools make an important section of the display. The museum also has Shahnama and Sikandernama hand written manuscripts in Persian.

PILGRIM TOURISM JAMMU

Raghunath Temple: Situated in the centre of the city and sunounded by a group of other temples, this temple, dedicated to Lord Rama is outstanding and unique in Northern India. Work on the temple was started by Maharaja Gulab



Singh, founder of the Kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir in 1835 AD and was completed by his son Maharaja Ranbir Singh 1860 AD. The inner walls of the main temple are covered with gold sheets on three sides. There are many galleries with lakhs of 'Saligrams'. The surrounding Temples are dedicated to various Gods and Goddesses connected with the epic Ramayana

Peer Khoh: A cave shrine lo on the circular road, 3.5 kms from the heart of the town. There is a Shiva Lingam formed naturally in the cave; neither its antiquity nor its cause is known. And legend has it that the cave leads underground to many other cave shrines and even out of the country

Peer Baba: On the back side of the Civil Airport is famous Dargah of the Muslim saint, Peer Budhan Shah. On Thursdays, Hindu and Sikh devotees vastly outnumber their Muslim brethren at the shrine

Idgah: The city has a number of historic idgahs. Of them Ziarat Baba Buddan Shah is located in the outskirts of Jammu city at a distance of about 8 kms towards the aerodrome at Satwari. This ziarat is very popular among all sections of society and is being visited by large number of people throughout the year. Baba Buddan Shah was borne at Talwandi in Punjab and it is said that another shrine of this Peer is located at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab. Other idgahs are Ziarat Baba Roshan Shah Wali near Gumat Bazar, Ziarat Peer Mitha near Peer mitha bazar. Another idgah is Panch-Peer.

Gurudwara: The city has a number of historic gurudwaras. Of them Gurudwara Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji is situated in Upper Bazar near Mubarak Mandi complex. The Gurudwara has a three ft.long white coloured marble statue of Guru Nanak Dev Ji kept in a separate room. Maharaja Partap Singh is said to have installed the statue.Other (Jurudwara's are Gurudwara Ashram Digiana.The splendid Gurudwara complex is located in between Gandhi Nagar and Nanak Nagar localities of Jammu. Another Gurudwara is Talli Sahib near Tallab Tub and Gurudwara Kalgidhar near Rehari localities Of Jammu.

Church: The city has a number of historic churches. Of them Protestant church on Wazarat road is the oldest Church in the city of temples. Other Churches are Roman Catholic Church near Jewel Chowk and Presentation Church of Virgin Mary. Another Church is St. Mary Church on G.L.Dogra road.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine: Located at a height of 5300 feet on holy Trikuta Hills. The holy cave shrine of Mata Vasihnodevi Ji is one of the most popular Shrines of the country. The Goddess Vaishnodevi's abode is in a 100 feet long cave with a narrow opening. The holy Ganga's cold and crystal clear water washes the lotus feetof the mata's 'Pindian'. There are three natural pindies of Maha Saraswati, Maha Lakshmi and Mahakali which represent creative, preservative and destructive aspects of the divine energy. It is an ancient shrine whose reference is found in the Vedas and other ancient scriptures. Previously the Shrine had only one natural entry cave, but now two more exit caves have been constructed. This shrine is 13 kms away from Katra town



Shahdara Sharief: It is the shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah in the lap of mountains. The shrine commonly known as Shahdara Sharief is a popular tourist spot in Rajouri district. There was a pir named Ghulam Shah who was born in Syed

Family at village Saidian Rawalpindi (now in Pakistan). Ghulam Shah made Shadara his abode for the rest of his life. Over a period of time, this shrine has grown into symbol of communal harmony as Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs visit this place in large numbers, offer prayers and seek blessings of the Pir.

Buddha Amarnath: In the north east of Poonch Town is situated an ancient temple of Lord Shiva on the left bank of Pulsata stream. The area is, known as Rajpura Mandi, two kms above Mandi village. This is a unique Shiva Temple which is located on the foot hill and not on the hill top and secondly the Shivling of white stone is not self-made. The stream which flows near it, is the Loran stream but it is believed by the locals that Ravan's grandfather Pulasta Rishi performed his tapasya and thus is known as Pulsata stream. This shrine is older than of Amarnathji of Kashmir. Thousands of people visit on Raksha Bandhan. Before partition, many people used to visit this shrine from areas now occupied by Pakistan

Nangali Sahib: Nangali Sahib Gurudwara is situated on the left bank of Drungli Nallah. This Gurudwara was established by Sant Bhai Mela Singh who is said to have visited this shrine in 1810 A.D. when he was on his way to conquer Kashmir. This place has got great religious importance and attachment to devotees. Thousands of pilgrims of all religions throughout the country come to this place every year.

Bahu Fort / Temple: 5 kms from Jammu city. Situated on a rock face on the left bank of the river Tawi, this is perhaps the oldest fort and edifice in the city. Constructed originally by Raja Bahulochan over 3,000 years ago, the existing Fort was more recently improved and built by Dogra rulers. There is a temple dedicated to Goddess Kali inside the fort popularly known as Bave wall Mata. The fort overlooks river placidly down the Jammu city. Every Tuesday and Sunday pilgrims throng this temple. Bave Wali Mata is the presiding deity of Jammu. One can really imagine on looking at the fort, the wars fought, the invasions prevented and even the grandeur of the Royal families.

KASHMIR DIVISION

Set like a jewelled crown on the map of India, Kashmir is many faceted diamond, changing character with the seasons - always extravagantly beautiful. Three Himalayan ranges, Karakoram, Zaskar and Pir Panjal - snow capped, majestic, frame the landscape from northwest to northeast. They are the birthplace of great rivers which flow through the Kashmir valley. RajTaringini the chronology of the Kashmir Kings written by Kaihana eulogises the beauty of Kashmir as follows: "Kasmira Parvati Paroksh; Tat Swami ch Maheswara'. Meaning Kashmir is as beautiful as Goddess Parvati manifest; and its owner is Lord Shiva Himself" And the Mughal Emperor exclaimed "Gar Firdous Bar-ru-e-Zamin Ast; Hamin Asto, Hamin Asto, Hamin Ast. Meaning if there is paradise on this earth: This is it, this is it, and this is it.

Srinagar is at once a collection of images: a son-et- lumiere that tells the story of the love of the Mughal emperors for this paradise vale; deep green rice fields and river bridges of gardens in bloom and lakes rimmed by houseboats; at once summer capital of the state, business centre and holiday resort.

The river Jhelum, the Dal and the Nagin lakes dominate Srinagar and its life and activities. Here lush wild gardens of lotus and water lily flower amidst bustling lanes by the lakeside spread the gardens of the Mughals in patterned beauty.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Best Season	March to October
Temperatures (Average)	10 to 30 degrees cent. Low Temperatures in winter
Clothing	Light/Medium woolens in summers to Heavy woolens in winter
Rainfall	529mm
Languages	Kashmiri, Urdu, Hindi, English

GENERAL TOURISM IN KASHMIR

Nishat Garden: Queen Nur-Jehan's brother Asif Khan laid the Garden in 1633 AD. It is situated on the banks of world famous Dal-Lake in the backdrop of Zabarwan hills. This garden commands magnificent view of the lake. The Garden is terraced with beautiful water channel flowing right in the middle

Shalimar Garden: This Garden was built by Emperor Shah-Jehan for his beloved wife Nur-Jehan. The Garden has four terraces and is 539x 182 meters and gets water from Harwan through canal which is lined with beautiful fountains. The 4th terrace was once reserved for royal ladies. The Garden blooms with innumerable varieties of flowers in spring and autumn.

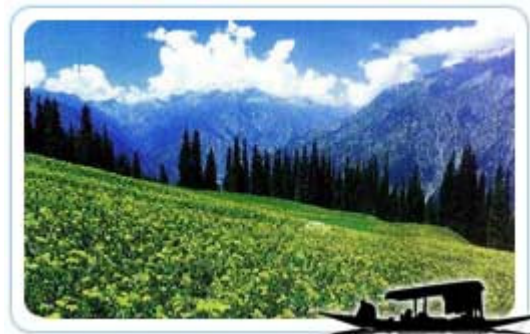
Chashmashahi & Parimahal: Chashmashahi or the Royal spring was laid by Shah Jehan in 1632 AD. It is famous for the spring of refreshing digestive mineral water. The Garden is terraced with fountains laid right through the middle. The Garden is host to multiple kinds of fruit and flower plants. Some massive Chinars are also found there. Pari Mahal is two Kms uphill from Chashma shahi and there was a school of astrology and philosophy based on various religions there. This was built by Dara Shikoh who was killed in war of succession to the Mughal Empire.

Dal Lake: The world famous water body has been described as Lake Par-Excellence by Sir Walter Lawrence. It is the Jewel in the crown of the Kashmir and is eulogized by poets and praised abundantly by the tourists. The lake is 6x3 Kms and is divided in four parts by causeways known as Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nagin. The Dal Lake is host to world famous Shikaras and Houseboats which vie with each other with eye catching names. Dal Lake changes its moods and scenery through out the day and after every few kilometers. It is lined with world famous Boulevard road.



Harwan: Harwan is huge Garden lined with flower beds and massive Chinar Trees with a beautiful canal flowing right through the middle. The canal is t from a beautiful lake which lies behind the garden. There is not much clutter of fountains and other fancy things but vast big green carpeted green lawns which form an ideal spot for picnics. This spot is very popular with the locals for picnics and excursions.

Gulmarg: The meadow of Flowers is a world famous tourist spot in the Baramulla district of Kashmir. At an altitude of 2730



meters, surrounded by dense forests of tall conifers, Gulmarg is known for unparalleled beauty and is rated as one of the matchless tourist spots of the world. It is famous for Golf hikes and boasts of a beautiful highland golf course. It is premier resort for winter sports in the country. Gondola cable car has added another charm to the beauty of Gulmarg being of highest (13400 ft above top) and longest cable car in Asia. It also holds a position as one of the highest lift-served ski resorts in the world.

Pahalgam: The Village of nomad is unspoilt by the ravages of progress. This is a quaint little village nestled on the banks of river Lidder. This place is an angler's delight and even an amateur can catch a rainbow trout from the rushing streams. The large brown bear is a natural inhabitant of the thick Pine and Cedar forests. Pahalgam has a golf course at 2400 meters above the sea level and an International Institute of Mountaineering which guide and trains the mountaineers. Camping equipments, ponies and skiing equipment is readily available. Amusement park at Pahalgam becomes main attraction for all tourists especially for children. Kolahoi is a popular destination for nature lovers via Aru a charming meadow. Pahalgam is base camp for the pilgrims of Amarnath.

Sonamarg: The Golden Meadow is at an altitude of 2740 meters and is gateway to Ladakh. It has brilliant forests of sycamore and alpine flowers, silver birch, fir and pine; Sonamarg is a place of enthralling beauty. Three lakes viz Kishensar, Vishensar and Gangabal can be viewed from Nichnai Pass. 20 Kms east of Sonamarg is Zoji-La Pass at 3540 mtrs which leads into Ladakh Plateau

Wullar Lake: The largest fresh-water lake in India is 60 km from Srinagar spreading over an area of 125 Sq. Kms. The lake by drawing off excess water from the Jhelum acts as a natural flood reservoir. Interesting ruins in the centre of the lake are the remains of an island created by King Zain-ul-abidin. With its turbulent waters perpetually wind ruffled, its exciting variety of avian life and the sheer beauty of its setting, Wullar represent Nature at her most untamed.

Bungus valley of Rajwar Kupwara is the place which is still untouched by the ravages of progress. The snow covered mountains and lush green thick pine forests depict nature at its best and is the destination for peace and nature lovers.

PILGRIM TOURISM IN KASHMIR

Amaranth: One of the holy Trinity, Shiva is a living God, the most sacred and the most ancient book of India, the Rigveda evokes his presence in its hymns. Vedic myths, rituals and even astronomy testify to his existence from the dawn of time. But Shiva, Destroyer, the mendicant, is indefinable: He is a great yogi. Legend has it that Shiva recounted to Parvati the secret of creation in a Cave in Amarnath. Unknown to them a pair of mating doves eavesdropped on this conversation and having learned the secret, are reborn again and again, and have made the cave their eternal abode. Many pilgrims report seeing the doves pair when they trek the arduous route to pay obeisance before the ice-lingam.

According to an ancient tale, there was once a Muslim Shepherd named Buta Malik who was given a sack of coal by a sadhu. Upon reaching home he discovered that the sack,



in fact, contained Gold. Over joyed and overcome, Buta Malik rushed back to look for sadhu and thank him.

But on the spot of their meeting discovered a cave, and eventually this became a place of pilgrimage for all believers. To date, a percentage of the donations made by pilgrims are given to the descendents of Malik, and the remaining to trust which manages the shrine.

Yet another legend is that Kashyap Rishi drained the Kashmir valley of water. The cave and lingam were discovered by Bregeish Rishi who was traveling to the Himalayas. When people heard of lingam, Amarnath for them became Shiva's abode and a centre of pilgrimage.

Khanqah-e-Moulla: The shrine of Shah-e-Hamdan or Khanqah-e-Moulla is one of the oldest Muslim shrines in Kashmir situated on the banks of river Jhelum in the old city. The shrine was originally constructed by Sultan Sikander (1389-1413 AD) in the memory of Muslim preacher Mir Syed Ali Hamdani who had visited Kashmir and stayed there for meditation and preaching.



In 1480 the shrine was gutted in a devastating fire and the then ruler Sultan Hassan Shah reconstructed the shrine on old edifice at a larger area. The shrine was later demolished and reconstructed in two storied form in 1493 AD. In 1731 AD the shrine was again destroyed in fire and was reconstructed by Abul Barkat Khan. The shrine is revered by people who throng it observe the death anniversary of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani falling on 6th of Zilhaj the last month of Muslim calendar.

Awantipura: 29 km the temple ruins at Avantipur represent some of the finest examples of architecture of this region. Dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva, they were built in 9th century AD by King Avantivaman.

Ziarat Makhdoom Sahib: This Muslim pilgrimage destination is located on one side of the Hari Parbat or Koh-e-Maraan hill which is in the Centre of the city at a distance of 7 kms from Srinagar and is one of the sacred shrines of the valley. The people of all religions pay visits to this shrine. Being on such a high the pilgrims had to climb by foot through stone stairs built upto the top entrance of the shrine. Aerial view of the Srinagar city is also visible from its top. This pilgrimage is dedicated to the memory of the saint Sheikh Hamzah Makdhoomi born at Tujjar Shrief in 1900 A.D commonly known as Mehboobul Alam among the people of the valley.

Charar-e-sharif

The pilgrimage destination of Charar-e-sharif is one of the most sacred Muslim shrines, which is popularly known as the Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali. This Muslim pilgrimage is dedicated to the memory of the Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, who was the patron saint of the Muslims in Kashmir. During the Sheikh's lifetime, he witnessed a cultural and religious transformation of those around him, from Hinduism to Islam. A number of historical events prompted the Sheikh to produce some valuable works of philosophy, in verses and poetry.



Visiting Charar-e-sharief shrine can be an educative experience. This pilgrimage is a 600 year-old wooden shrine. Most of the shrine and its surroundings were destroyed as a consequence of an armed battle between the Indian Army and the militants. Later the shrine was rebuilt on the lines of central Asian architecture.

Charar-e-Sharief is located on the way to Yusmarg, 40 kilometers from Srinagar.

Ziarat Peer Dastageer Sahib: This pilgrimage destination is located at a distance of 5 Kms from Srinagar City and is very famous Muslim shrine. This pilgrimage is dedicated to the memory of the saint Sheikh Syed Ab. Qadir Jeelani (RA), commonly known as Dastageer Sahib who had come to Kashmir from Baghdad (Iraq) to spread Islam and its teachings to the people of valley.



Hazratbal

Hazratbal shrine is situated on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar opposite Nishat Bagh. Tours and travel to this shrine can be a special experience as the Prophet Mohammad's hair, that is the Moi-e-Muqqadus, is preserved in this shrine. The history of this shrine dates back to the seventeenth century. The Hazratbal shrine is a marble structure that was specifically constructed by Muslim Auqaf Trust with the objective of preserving the Prophet's hair, this piece of hair arrived in Kashmir in the year 1699.

This pilgrimage destination is known by a number of names viz. the Assar-e-Sharif, Madinat-us-Sani and the Dargah Sharif. Mughal emperor Shahjahan's brother constructed the Ishrat Mahal at the site of the shrine sometime in the year 1623, later when the emperor himself visited the site he ordered the place to be converted into a prayer house. The shrine as such was built by the Muslim Auqaf trust. Before the Hazratbal shrine was constructed the sacred hair was placed in the shrine of Naqshband Sahib. The architecture of the shrine is a combination of Mughal and traditional Kashmiri.

The Moi-e-Muqqadus is usually on public display inside a glass casket on certain sacred and holy days. Visiting Hazratbal shrine gives you an opportunity to participate in the colorful and vibrant fairs that are held at Hazratbal every year, the most important among these is the Shab-e-Meraj. The Watul mela is also very popular among the tourists and the pilgrims.

Kheer Bhawani

This pilgrimage destination is located in the village of Tulla Mulla that is at a distance of 27 kilometers from Srinagar.

This temple is popularly known as the Kheer Bhawani temple. Devotees fast and gather here on the eighth day of the full moon in the month of May when, according to common belief, the goddess changes the color of the spring's waters. The temple complex is known as Kheer Bhawani because of the thousands of devotees who offer milk



and kheer, a form of Indian desert, to the sacred spring, which magically turns black to warn of impending disaster. Pilgrims who have faith in the divine powers of the goddess usually visit to this pilgrimage.

The festival of the Kheer Bhawani temple is extremely famous and devotees gather from far and wide to participate in the worship of the goddess Ragnya Devi. The festival ends with a maha yagnya. It has been a tradition among the Kashmiri pundits to visit the temple of Kheer Bhawani on all the nine days of the navratras. The tenth day of the festival is celebrated as Vijaya Dashami.

Shankaracharya Temple

This temple is located on the top of the hills, southeast of Srinagar and is commonly known as the Takht-i-Sulaiman. This temple is situated at a height of 1100 feet above the Srinagar city. The temple is devoted to the worship of lord Shiva. Visiting this pilgrimage involves a trek to the top of the hills in the Srinagar region.



This ancient temple dates back to 250 B.C. It is believed that the saint Shankaracharya stayed here when he visited Kashmir ten centuries ago to preach the Sanatan Dharma. In the ancient times this temple was known as the Gopadri. The main shrine has a circular cell inside. An inscription in Persian inside the shrine indicates that the origin of this sacred place dates back to the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan. The saint Adi Shankaracharya visited Kashmir in the first quarter of the ninth century with the basic aim of spreading the philosophy of Vedanta. The saint also popularized the worship of lord Shiva in Kashmir.

It seems before saint Shankaracharya came to this area, Buddhism was rampant in this region.

Ziarat Baba Reshi: District Baramulla is the resting place to great Saint Baba Payam-ud- Din Reshi famously known as Baba Reshi at Tangmarg. There are shrines/tombs of other prominent Saints and Sofi's with historical and religious significance which include Shrine of Hazrat Baba Shukur Din at Watlab Sopore, birth place of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Aarifin (Tujjar Sharief), Baba Gafoor Sahib at Peerniya Un, Hazrat Janbaz Wali at Khanpora Baramulla and Tomb of Hazrat Shahi Hamdan Sahib. In 1894 the sixth Sikh Guru Shri Hargobind Ji visited the city and Gurdwara "Chatti Padshahi" was constructed in His memory. Baramulla thus became an abode of Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Sikhs living in harmony and contributing to a rich composite culture.

Jama Masjid: It is one of the oldest and the most spacious of all the mosques in Kashmir, situated in the heart of the city. The foundation of the mosque, an architectural wonder was laid by Sultan Sikander in 1398 A.D. The area of the mosque is 384 ft X 381 ft spacious enough for over thirty thousand people to offer prayers at a time.

Hari Parbat Fort: Another historical monument of Srinagar is the Hari Parbat Fort constructed by the Afghan Governor, Atta Mohammad Khan (1808-10), on the top of the Hari Parbat or Koh-e-Maraan hill. The architecture of the Fort is similar to that of the forts in Central Asia.

Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi: The city has a number of historic gurudwaras, one of them Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi situated near Raina Wari "Daram Salla" is the most important one. The Gurudwara is White in Colour and white marble has been used mostly for its construction. This Sikh pilgrimage destination is very famous among the Sikhs of the valley who mainly visit this Gurdawara during their religious functions.

LADAKH REGION

LADAKH is a mysterious land shrouded in myth and legend. Much of its ancient history is known only through the mythology of its people as its written history is of very recent origin. Known for centuries as the 'land of passes' (La-pass; Dakh land), Ladakh was described by Fa-hian, who travelled across its inhospitable terrain in 399 A.D, as 'The land where snow never melts and only corn ripens'.



Major Tourist Destination LADAKH is situated between 30 degree to 36 degree east latitude and 76 degree to 79 degree north longitude. The region of Ladakh spread over to an area of 96,701 Sq. Kms and comprising a population of 2 Lakhs habitants and consists of two districts, Leh and Kargil. The region of Ladakh normally remains land locked between November to June every year as Srinagar -Ladakh and Ladakh- Manali highways, which connect Ladakh with the other parts of the country, remain closed during this period because of snow and rigorous winter.

Ladakh is also the land of many lakes and springs. Among the springs, the famous are the suiphar springs of Panamic (Nobra), Chumathang and Puga of Changthang, which are famous for early curing of joints/rheumatic diseases. Many mineral springs are also found in some remote parts of Ladakh. People of region use the spring water as medicine to prevent and cure themselves from many diseases. The important lakes which fall within the jurisdiction of Ladakh are Pangong lake (150 Kms long, 4 Kms wide situated at a height of 14,000 ft.). Tsomoriri lake, (Tsokar means salty lake). Since ancient times till the end of 1959 salt was being extricated from this particular salty lake for human consumption.

Ladakh has two districts namely Leh and Kargil which stand in contrast with each other in terms of geography and climate. The great Himalaya mountain, lying to the south, forms a barrier to monsoon in this area. Due to this region Ladakh is an isolated cold desert region. Altitude in Ladakh varies from place to place and is the main factor affecting local climate. The winter temperature touches as low as minus 30 degree (Leh & Kargil) and minus 60 degree in (Drass) subzero temperature prevails from December to February throughout Ladakh, whereas, zero degree temperature is experienced during rest of winter months. This result in freezing of all conceivable water resources. During summer the maximum temperature increases from 20 degree C to 38 degree C in July and August. The relative humidity is low and ranges from 31 to 64 percent. Wind velocity in the afternoon and nights is of high order resulting in heavy soil erosion with dust storm and snow blizzards which make life very difficult.



Due to longer winters, the agriculture season is short and spread over from April to September depending upon the climate. The main river of Ladakh is Indus, which

flows in a north-west direction between Ladakh and Zaskar ranges. It is joined by several major rivers like Zaskar, Suru and Shayok before it reaches Pakistan Kargil.

Best Season:	March to October
Temperatures (Average):	10 to 30 degrees cent. Low Temperatures in winter
Clothing:	Light/Medium woolens in summers to Heavy woolens in winter
Rainfall	529mm
Languages	Ladakhi, Kashmiri, Urdu, Hindi, English

GENERAL TOURISM IN LADAKH

Drass: Gateway to Ladakh: Drass (3230 m), 60 km west of Kargil on the road to Srinagar is a small township lying in the centre of the valley of the same name. It has become famous as the second coldest inhabited place in the world by virtue of the intense cold that descends upon the valley along with repeated snowfalls during winters. Winter temperature is sometimes known to plummet to less than minus 40 degrees.

The Drass valley starts from the base of the Zojila pass, the Himalayan gateway to Ladakh. For centuries its inhabitants are known to have negotiated this formidable pass even during the most risky period in the late autumn or early spring, when the whole sector remains snow-bound and is subject to frequent snow storms, to transport trader's merchandise across and to help stranded travellers to traverse it. By virtue of their mastery over the pass they had established a monopoly over the carrying trade during the heydays of the Pan-Asian trade. A hardy people enduring with fortitude and harshness of the valley's winter, the inhabitants of Drass can well be described as the guardian's of Ladakh's gateway.

Drass is a convenient base for a 3-day-long trek to Suru valley across the sub-range separating the two valleys. This trek passes through some of the most beautiful upland villages and flower sprinkled meadows on both sides of the 4500 mts high Umbala pass, which falls enroute. The trek to the holy cave of Amarnath in neighbouring Kashmir, which starts from Minamarg below Zojila, takes 3 days and involves crossing of 5200 mts high pass. Drass also offers numerous shorter treks and hikes to the upland villages.

Kargil: KARGIL (2704 m), 204 kms from Srinagar in the west and 234 kms from Leh in the east, is the second largest urban centre of Ladakh and headquarters of the district of same name. A quite town now, Kargil once served as important trade and transit centre in the Pan-Asian trade network. Numerous caravans carrying exotic merchandise comprising silk, brocade, carpets, felts, tea, poppy, ivory etc. transited in the town on their way to and from China, Tibet, Yarkand and Kashmir. The old bazaar displayed a variety of Central Asian and Tibetan commodities even after the cessation of the Central Asian trade in 1949 till these were exhausted about two decades back. Similarly the ancient trade route passing through the township was lined with several caravanserais. Now, since 1975, travelers of numerous nationalities have replaced traders of the past and Kargil has regained its importance as a centre of travel-related activities. Being located in the centre of the Himalayan region with tremendous potentials for adventure activities, Kargil serves as an important base for adventure tourism in the heart of Himalayas. It is also the take



off station for visitors to the erotic Zaskar Valley. Tourists travelling between Srinagar and Leh have to make a night halt here before starting the second leg of their journey.

The town lies nestling along the rising hillside of the lower Suru basin. Two tributaries of the Suru River that meet here are the Drass and Wakha. The land available along the narrow valley as also the rising hillsides are intensively cultivated neat terraces to grow barley, wheat, peas, a variety of vegetables and other cereals. Kargil is famous for the fine apricots grown here. In May the entire countryside becomes awash with fragrant white apricot blossoms while August, the ripening fruit lends it an orange hue.

Mulbek: Situated 45 kms East of Kargil on the road to Leh, Mulbek (3230 m) is an area dominated by the Buddhists. It is situated along either banks of the Wakha River, which originates. Many monuments of the early Buddhists era dot the landscape and are accessible from the road.

Mulbek Chamba: The chief attraction of Mulbek is a 9 m high rock sculpture in deep relief of Maitreya, the Future Buddha. Its excursion combines esoteric Shaivite symbolism with early Buddhist art. Situated right on the highway; it dates back to the period when Buddhists missionaries came trailing east of the Himalayas.

Mulbek Gompa: Perched atop a rocky cliff, Mulbek Gompa (monastery) dominates the valley. It is easy to see why in bygone times this site served as an outpost to guard the caravan route. Like all Buddhists monasteries it is adorned by frescoes and statues.

Shergol: Another picturesque village of the Wakha River valley, Shergol is situated across the river, right of the Kargil-Leh road. The main attraction is a cave monastery which is visible from a far as a white speck against the vertically rising ochre hill from which it appears to hang out. Below this small monastery is a larger Buddhist nunnery with about a dozen incumbents. The village is accessible by the motorable road that branches off from the Kargil-Leh road, about 5 km short of Mulbek. Shergol is a convenient base for an exciting 4-day trek across the mountain range into the Suru valley. It is also the approach base for visiting Urgyan-Dzong, a meditation retreat lying deep inside the mountains surrounding the Wakha River valley.

Urgyan Dzong: This meditation retreat lies tucked away in an amazing natural mountain fortress high up in Zaskar range. Concealed within is a circular table land with a small monastic establishment at its centre. The surrounding hillside reveals several caves where high-ranking Buddhists saints meditated in seclusion. At least one such cave is associated with the visit of Padmasambhava, the patron saint of Tibetan Buddhism. The main approach is to footpath laid through the only gap available in the rocky ramparts.

Wakha Rgyal: Tucked away inside the picturesque upper part of the Wakha Valley, upstream of Mulbek, Rgyal gives the appearance of a medieval settlement of cave dwellings transported in to the modern times with some improvements and extensions. The houses, neatly white-washed and closely stacked, are dug into the sheer face of a vertical cliff that rises high above the green valley bottom. From a far the village looks like a colony of beehives hanging from the ochre granite of the Cliffside.

SURU VALLEY – SUN, SNOW AND SILENCE

One of the most beautiful regions of Ladakh, the Suru Valley forms the mainstay of Kargil district. Lying nestled along the north-eastern foothills of the great Himalayan Wall, it extends from Kargil town, first southward for a length of about 75 Kms upto the expanse around Panikhar, thence eastward for another stretch of nearly 65 kms upto the foot of the Penzila watershed where the Suru valley rises. Its composite population of about 30,000 -- mainly of Tibeti-Darad descent-is Muslims who had converted their Buddhist faith around the middle of the 16th century. The upper valley reaches of the valley, particularly around the Sankoo bowl, the Panikhar expanse and the higher stretch beyond, present a spectacle of breathtaking features-majestic mountain ramparts crowned by snow capped peaks, undulating alpine slopes draining into wild mountain streams of foaming cascades of pristine water, awesome glaciers descending along the Himalayan slopes to the river bed in riverine formation, Quaint villages of adobe houses straggling dry hillocks surrounded by large tracts of lush crops downward the patches of alpine pastures uphill. The beauty of this region is further enhanced by the sheer contrast provided by the towering peaks of Kun (7035 m) and Nun (7135 m) which loom over the skyline in their crystalline majesty.

RANGDUM (3657 m):

The farthest and the most isolated part of the Suru Valley, Rangdum is an elliptical expanded plateau surrounded by colourful hills on the one side and glacier encrusted rocky mountains on the other. Situated 130 kms South- east of Kargil, it falls midway between Kargil and Padum. Due to its remoteness from inhabited parts either of Suru or Zaskar, the areas wild beauty is almost haunting, while its isolation is near perfect even as the unpaved Zaskar road traverses its length. The chief attraction of this area is an imposing 18th century Buddhist monastery with about 40 monks in residence. Perched picturesquely atop a centrally rising hillock which is entrenched around by the bifurcated course of a wild mountain stream, the Rangdum monastery has the aura of an ancient fortification guarding a mystical mountain valley.

ZANSKAR THE VIRGIN VALE

About 20 kms South of Rangdum stands the Pazila watershed across which lies Zaskar, the most isolated of all the trans Himalayan Valleys. The Panzila Top (4401 m) is the picturesque tableland adorned with two small alpine lakes and surrounded by snow covered peaks. As the Zaskar road winds down the steep slopes of the watershed to the head of the Stod Valley, one of Zaskar's main tributary valleys, the majestic "Drang-Drung" glacier looms into full view. A long and winding river of ice and snow, the "Drang-Drung" is perhaps the largest glacier in Ladakh, outside the Siachen formation. It is from the cliff-like snout of this extensive glacier that the Stod or Doda River, the main tributary of river Zaskar, rises.

Zaskar comprises a tri-armed valley system lying between the Great Himalayan Range and the Zaskar mountain; The three arms radiate star-like towards the west, north and south from a wide central expanse where the region's two principal drainage's meet to form the main Zaskar River. It is mainly along the course of this valley system that the region's 10,000 strong, mainly Buddhists population lives. Spread over an estimated geographical area of 5000 sq. kms High rise, mountains and deep gorges surround Zaskar. The area remains inaccessible for nearly 8 months a year due to heavy snowfall resulting in closure of all the access passes, including the Penzi-la. Today, Zaskar has the distinction of being the least interfered with microcosms of Ladakh, and one of the last few surviving cultural

satellites of Tibet. Within the mountain ramparts of this lost Shangrila stand a number of ancient yet active monastic establishments. Some of these religious foundations have evolved around remote meditation caves believed to have been used by a succession of famous Buddhist saints for prolonged meditation in pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment.

PADUM

Once the capital of the ancient kingdom of Zanskar, Padum(3505 m) is the present day administrative headquarters of the region. With a population of nearly 1500, Padum can be described as the most populous settlement of Zanskar, otherwise a very scarcely inhabited valley. Incidentally, it is only in Padum that there is a community of Muslims constituting nearly half the townships population, its origin in the area dating from mid 17th century. Lately, Padum has become a famous as a major trekking base and a popular tourist destination. Several places of tourist interest in the vicinity of the township can be visited in the course of entertaining walks. The nearest monument is a set of ancient rock carving on a huge boulder near the river bank, just below the old township. These dates from the 8th century and provide epigraphic evidence that the region was under the influence of North Indian Buddhism since ancient times. The Starrimo Monastery with about 30 resident monks clings to a tree-covered ridge above the old town. Across the expanse of cultivation lies the old village of Pibiting, dominated by its picturesque hilltop monastery, a superb manifestation of stupa architecture.

SANI

This picturesque village is 6 kms west of Padum, on the road to Kargil. The chief attraction here is the castle like monastery which, unlike other monasteries of the region, is built on level ground. By legend its initial foundation is associated with Kanishka on account of the Kanika Stupa which stands in the backyard of the walled complex. The main building comprises a huge multi-columned central prayer hall housing an array of statues of popular Buddhists divinities and Drugpa (Old Schools) high saints. The most interesting frescoes, however, can be seen in a small, almost discarded chapel at the back of the main building, whose walls are adorned with Stucco murals depicting landscapes and floral designs based on the life of Padma-sambhava. Adjoining this monastic complex is an old cemetery surrounded by a ring of ancient rock which reflect Indian artistic influence.

Sani is also associated with Naropa, the famous Indian yogi from Vikramsila, who is said to have sat in meditation for some time under the Kanika Stupa. The site is now occupied by a small room housing a veiled bronze figure of the Yogi, which is unveiled, once a year in late July. A 2-day long festival is held to celebrate this occasion, which is attended by people from far, and wide monks from Bardan Monastery perform masked dances as ritual offering.

STONGDEY

The monastery of Stongdey lies 18 kms to the north of Padum, on the road leading to Zangla. An old foundation associated with the Tibetan Yogi, Marpa, Stongdey is now the second largest monastic establishment of Zanskar, inhabited by the resident community of about 60 Gelukpa monks. The sprawling whitewashed complex has a number of temples, each a repository of the region's rich monastic legacy. Stongdey can be reached by foot in about 4 hours along the recently laid rough road. The climb up to the monastery is rather strenuous, but it is worth the trouble for the breathtaking scenery of the valley available from here.

LADAKH WILDLIFE

Ladakh's most striking feature is nakedness of the country. Lying as it does to the North of the main Himalayan range, most of Ladakh falls in the palearctic rather than the oriental region. Ladakh possesses virtually no natural forests, though along riverbanks and valleys some greenery does exist. The lower mountain slopes are sparse but higher up, near the snow line, wild rose, and willow and herbaceous plants have successfully colonized the slopes. This is the alpine zone. While soil, wind, precipitation and exposure are important determinants in the arrangement of specific life, the temperature differential due to altitude is by far the most important factor. Because of the decrease in the temperature, vegetation becomes more sparse and stunted as one ascends the slopes.

In this extremely harsh environment the untrained eye would hardly see any evidence of wildlife at all. Animals, which have adapted to the rigorous conditions however, thrive on the minimal vegetation, poor shelter, rocky terrain and bitter cold. Nevertheless, most creatures, notably the ungulates, do migrate to lower regions in winter while others, like the brown bear and marmots, choose to hibernate. Ironically, at this altitude many animals suffer from "mountain sickness" because of the lack of oxygen! Their bodies however, seem to adapt to this condition, as the number of red blood corpuscles increases along with blood acidity. Most large mammals have a unique device for protection against the cold—a highly insulated shaggy coat. They, therefore, have less need for shelter from the elements. This is perhaps why more species of goat and sheep live here in open country than anywhere else on earth.

YAK

The largest animal of the cold desert is the yak (dong), a wild ox. Immensely shaggy and weighing about a tone it has curved horns whose tips can be as wide apart as 90 cm. and measure 76 cm. over the curves. It can easily be distinguished by its long black hair, which is tinged with gray at the muzzle. Spending its summers at a height above 6,000 meters, in winter it moves in herds to the lakes, marshes and lower valleys.

NYAN

The entire world's sheep are closely related and zoologists generally believe that each kind is only a variation of the same species. The largest and most magnificent of wild sheep is the nyan also called the Great Tibetan sheep (*Ovis ammon*). Roughly 200 of these antelope-like animals are found in the extreme eastern portion of Ladakh. The horns of the nyan measure up to 145 cm. and the animal normally remains at a great height, rarely descending to a level below 4,500 meters.

Pashmeena Goat

The land of Ladakh is a rich breeding ground for the Pashmeena Goat, mainly found in the upper reaches of mountains in the cold desert. As a result raw material for one of the chief industries of the State is obtained for making valuable Pashmeena Shawls.

URIAL

The urial or shapu, (*Ovis orientalis*), which weighs 85 Kg. and has horns measuring up to 99 cm, is the smallest of the world sheep in eastern Asia, its body is about as tall as its horns. These sheep prefer the grassy mountain slopes, usually at a height of 3,000-4,000 meters. The mating of this species, as is the case with most sheep during December-January and they give birth to their young around May. There are

no more than 500 in Ladakh, while a survey by the Wildlife Department of Jammu & Kashmir puts another population in the Markha and Rumbak valleys at only around 34-50 most common and wide spread of the sheep in the Ladakh region is the bharal or the blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*). Found at an altitude of almost 6,000 meters, in summer they graze in huge herds on the rich and abundant grasses of the alpine meadows. Their brownish-gray coloring provides them with protective camouflage and as they often stand motionless they can be extremely difficult to spot but, when alarmed, bharal will bolt swiftly to safety. Strangely, bharal seem to bear some morphological traits of both sheep and goats.

HISTORIC PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Hemis: Situated 40 Kms from Leh, Hemis is the wealthiest, best known and biggest gompa of Ladakh. The annual festival of the gompa is held in summer in honour of Guru Padma Sambhav's birth anniversary. It also has the largest thanka (scroll painting on silk or brocade) in Ladakh which is unfurled once in 12 years. Hemis was built in 1630 A.D. during the reign of Sengge Namgyal and flourished under the Namgyal dynasty.



Aichi: The gompa is situated on the banks of the Indus, 70 Kms from Leh and dates a thousand years back. The gompa is no longer an active religious centre and is looked after by monks from the Likir monastery.

Spituk: The gompa stands prominently on the top of a hillock, 8 Kms from Leh, and commands a panoramic view of the Indus Valley for miles. Many icons of Buddha and five thankas are found in 15th century monastery. There is also a collection of ancient masks, antique arms, and an awe inspiring image of Mahakal.

Phyang: The monastery is situated 17 Kms from Leh on the Leh-Kargil road. It was built by Tashi Namgyal in the later half of the 16th century A.D. and looks like a place from a distance. The gompa belongs to the Red Cap sect of the Buddhists. Hundreds of icons of Buddha are kept on wooden shelves.

Shey: 15 Kms upstream from Leh the palace is believed to have been the seat of power of the pre-Tibetan kings. A 7.5 metre high copper statue of Buddha, plated with gold, and the largest of its kind, is installed in the palace.

Thikse: The Thikse monastery is spectacularly situated 19 Kms from Leh. It is one of the largest and architecturally most impressive gompas. The gompa has images, stupas and wall paintings of Buddha which are exquisite.

Jama Masjid : The historical mosque is situated in the heart of Leh town. It was built in 1666-67 A.D. consequent to an agreement between the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and then ruler of Ladakh, Deldan Namgyal.

Leh Palace : The palace is a distinguished monument and a historical building. The nine- storeyed palace was built by the 17th century illustrious ruler of Ladakh Sengge Namgyal.

ADVENTURE TOURISM

The natural beauty of the valley of Kashmir has deservedly won high praise and even extravagant encomiums from travelers, since time immemorial.

The valley, practically one large health resort, is enchanting all the year round. The colourful flower season starts from the middle of March and April, May and June find fruit trees laden with many hued carpets of flowers decking the meadows and hill

slopes. June and July offer swimming, sun-bathing, Surf-riding and trekking. August and September are good for fishing trout and mahseer in ice-cold mountain streams. Big and small games are to be found aplenty in September and October; there is autumn, the fruit season, which finds the valley ablaze in red and russet. It is also good time for trekking. December to February is the season for winter sports in Gulmarg.

Nestling in the lap of dazzling, snow capped Himalayas, the Kashmir valley is undoubtedly a jewel in India's crown. And inspiration for so much art, music, poetry & sport, Kashmir is also a honeymooner's paradise, a shopper's dream come true and an adventure lover's wonderland.

There is whole bunch of adventure sports on offer- like snow skiing, trekking, mountaineering, white water rafting, water skiing, paragliding.

HELI-SKIING & RAFTING

The Zealous mountaineer, eager to explore this Shangrila of the east, can hire tents, camp gear, kitchen accessories, as well as bearers and guides, at Srinagar. The introduction of new adventure sport, called Heli-skiing, in 1987-88, added a new dimension to the winter tourism of the state. Heli-skiing consists of being dropped by a helicopter on the summit of a high, snow-covered peak and then skiing down the slopes. The helicopter transports skiers from the base (Gulmarg) to heights of over 4,500 m landing on a different peak every day, whether it is Apharwat, Yusmarg or the Kolahaiglacier. In Kashmir there is already a well-organised central Gulmarg Ski institute conducting ski courses and competitions - became the second place in the world, after Canada, to offer large scale heli-skiing. The construction of a 7.5Km long gondola cable car ropeway from Gulmarg to Apharwat, which began in April 1988, has also contributed to Kashmir becoming a year-round destination.

RAFTING

The Zaskar and the Indus rivers in the Ladakh region offer rafting expeditions for the experienced rafters as well as the novice. Zaskar river expeditions in summer are the ultimate for a rafter which takes one through the one of the most breathtaking gorges in Asia.

Other tourism details have been given under respective districts of the state.

Nallah Lidar "Pahlgam"

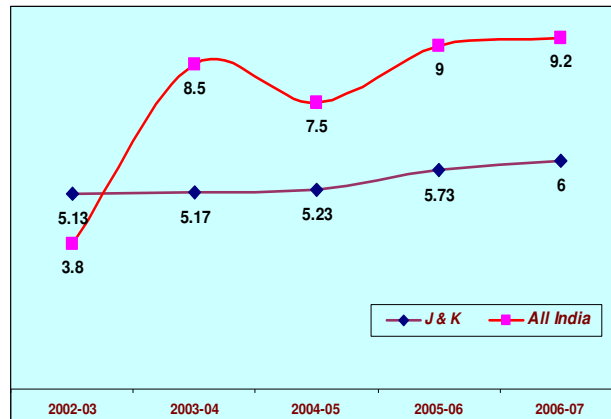
9. Macro Economic Overview

J&K economy is a *high cost mountain economy* & has a number of characteristics that pose special development challenges. The State is especially vulnerable to external events, natural disasters, that cause high volatility in its State Domestic Product; and it suffers from limited capacity in the public and private sectors. More specifically, the following characteristics define the special development challenges and vulnerabilities that J&K faces:

- a. **Remoteness and isolation:** Landlocked, and located far from major markets. For J&K high transport costs make it harder to turn to major markets to compensate for the drawbacks of the small size of its domestic markets. In J&K a small domestic market combines with large distances from other markets to reduce competition and its spur to efficiency and innovation.
- b. **Limited capacity:** While a weakness in both public and private sector capacity is a key problem for J&K, size has added a further dimension to the challenge. This is further compounded in J&K where the internal distances are large and the population is scattered. In the public sector J&K faces diseconomies of small size in providing public services and in carrying out the business of government, and tend to have relatively larger public sectors. J&K does not possess sufficient institutional capacity to participate fully in national finance and trade activities—the outcomes of which can profoundly affect its economy. In the private sector, as already noted, lack of diversification and domestic competition has held back successful development. Many of these factors combine to make J&K economy especially vulnerable, and in particular they affect:
 - i. **Income volatility.** Overall, the range of per capita incomes and rates of growth are not significantly different across Indian state economies. However, the residents of J&K experience higher volatility in their incomes—the standard deviation of annual real per capita growth in small states is about 25 percent higher than in large states. This reflects several of the factors listed above—their high levels of exports and imports and low diversification in production and trade.
 - ii. **Access to external capital:** The access to national capital markets is very limited for J&K. There is just one listed corporate in the state. Most private sector enterprises are still in the primitive stage of organization. This one way of compensating for adverse shocks and income volatility is thus also limited. The fact is that private markets tend to see J&K as more risky than other states, so that spreads are higher and market access more difficult.
- c. **Limited diversification.** Because of its small domestic markets, J&K is necessarily relatively un-diversified in its production structure and exports. Where one dominant activity has declined, it has tended to be replaced with another. This adds to vulnerability to changes in the external environment.
- d. **Susceptibility to natural disasters and environmental change.** Of late, J&K has become susceptible to natural disasters such as snow tsunami, earthquake, and drought which typically affect large parts of the population and economy. These events cause income volatility which creates additional hardship as the poor are less able to withstand negative shocks to their incomes.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the J&K State is continuously increasing over the years. Gross State Domestic Product at constant (1999-00) prices for the year 2006-07 is estimated at Rs. 21556.82 crores (Advance estimates) as against Rs 20336.50 crores (Advance estimates) for the year 2005-06 registering an increase of 6 percent over the previous year.

The Tenth Five Year Plan of J& K had targeted to achieve a growth rate of 6.10% in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices. The actual growth rate has been 5.13% in 2002-03, 5.17% in 2003-04, 5.23% in 2004-05, 5.73% in 2005-06 and 6.00% in 2006-07 in real terms (1999-00 prices) or a growth rate of 5.45% per annum compounded annually. However, at the National level the actual growth rate has been 3.8% in 2002-03, 8.5% in 2003-04, 7.5% in 2004-05, 9.0% in 2005-06 and 9.2% in 2006-07(A). The growth rate has thus been looking up during the entire period of the Tenth Five Year Plan but is lagging much behind the growth rate at the national level.



The Per Capita Gross State income at constant (1999-00) prices is worked out to be Rs. 19535 in the year 2006-07(A). The average annual growth rate of Gross per Capita income during Xth Five Year Plan at constant price stands at 3.98 %.

Growth Performance in the Five Year Plans

Serial No.	Period	Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) At Constant Prices	Per Capita At Constant Prices
1	Third Plan (1961-66)	-0.37	-2.91
2	Fourth Plan (1969-74)	4.20	1.57
3	Fifth Plan (1974-79)	5.62	3.00
4	Sixth Plan (1980-85)	4.44	1.74
5	Seventh Plan (1985-90)	1.35	-1.19
6	Eighth Plan (1992-97)	4.75	2.46
7	Ninth Plan (1997-02)*	4.21	1.60
8	Tenth Plan (2002-07)**	5.47	4.01

* Base Year 1993-94 ** Base Year 1999-00 Source : DES, J&K

Note: The Average plan wise growth rates are on different base periods and interlinking of the base periods is under process.

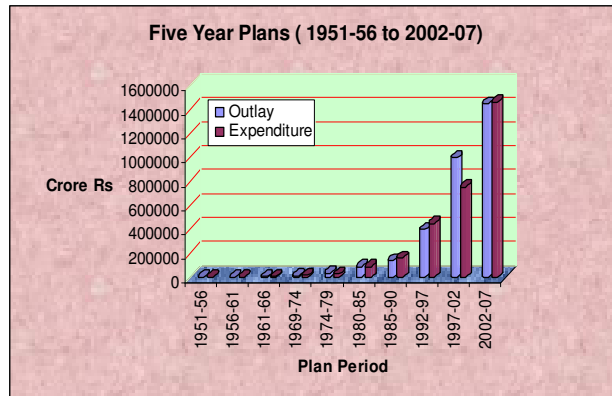
The Primary sector mainly comprising agriculture & allied activities contribute about 29.44% to GSDP. The Primary sector has registered an annual average growth rate of 4.00 % during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The secondary sector mainly involving industries & allied manufacturing activities contribute about 24.16 % to GSDP. Industrial performance in the Tenth Five Year Plan improved to a respectable 6.65 % from a low growth in the Ninth Plan. The tertiary sector is growing in volume as well as sectoral percentage contribution. A growth of 2.84 percent, 3.29 percent

and 6.50 percent and 6.92 percent was registered during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06(A) and 2006-07(A) years respectively.

Planning Development

The 5-year Planning process in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has started from 1951 as part of All India Programme with first 5-year plan (1951-56) formulated for Rs.1274.15 lacs only. Over the years this has swollen phenomenally and the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) stands agreed at Rs.2583400 lacs.

The picture depicts that the expenditures have not been congruent with the outlays except for the Tenth FY Plan 2002-07 where the expenditure and outlay have gone neck-to-neck. This could safely be attributed to the various measures initiated by the government in the direction of observing financial discipline at various administrative levels and the application of effective monitoring mechanism.



The per capita Plan Expenditure per annum which was Rs 1449 during the 9th Five Year Plan reached to Rs. 2395 during the 10th Five Plan recording an increase of 65.29% over the 9th Five Year Plan.

The outlay for the 11th FYP stands agreed at Rs. 25834 crore which is 78.16% higher over the original 10th FYP outlay of Rs. 14500 Crore. Energy with Rs. 9197 Crore is the priority sector for development during the 11th FYP showing a percentage increase of 184% over the 10th FYP outlay where as agriculture & allies activities with an outlay of Rs. 18018 Crore stands at No. 5 has shown a percentage increase of 20.63% over the 10th FYP as for as the outlays are concerned. The approved outlays for the annual plans 2007-08 and 2008-09 stands at Rs 4000 crores and Rs 4500 crores respectively excluding PMRP and ACAs.

The 11th FYP appears capital intensive as the share of capital component stands at 87% which has increased by 20% over the previous existing share of 67% for 10th FYP.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is a pioneer in the field of decentralized district planning. Under the capable leadership and guidance of Jenab Sheikh Mohd Abdullah with the objective of landing greater stand to the development of the districts and with a need to remove imbalances.

An innovative initiative of "Single Line Administration" was started in 1976 to plan development at the District level itself in consultation with the elected and other representatives of the people. District Development Boards were constituted for this purpose and the Deputy Commissioners were made the District Development Commissioners of the Districts who also function as the Heads of the Departments at District level with appropriate delegation of financial and administrative powers. This concept was eventually re-affirmed and strengthened to respond to the changing situations and developments in September 1993 by issuing comprehensive guidelines.

The State has been preparing the district plans for more than two decades. The process starts after the State Budget is voted in the Assembly and the Heads of the Departments are given the Plan size as finally approved to suggest district-wise break-up of sectoral outlays as approved in the Budget. The process of formulation of Plan at the District level starts thereafter and the Plan is got approved in a full meeting of the District Development Board where HODs and District Officers also participate in addition to the Hon'ble MPs/MLAs / MLC 's of the home District.

On the basis of feedback both at the administrative and political levels, the District Development Boards were revamped in November, 1996 by nominating the Hon'ble Ministers of the Cabinet as Chairmen of the Boards instead of District Development Commissioners. Hon'ble MPs and MLAs of the concerned Districts as the Members of the Boards and Hon'ble MLCs of the home districts are to be nominated as Members of the Boards by the Government. Due representation has also been given to the Panchayats, Municipal Committees/Corporations and weaker sections of the society including women.

The district Plan constitutes about 33% of State Plan.

ANNUAL PLAN 2008-09

(Introduction)

1.01 2008-09 will be the second year of the 11th Five Year Plan. The strategy which the State Government will be following during 11th Five Year Plan was mentioned in the Annual Plan discussions for 2007-08 held in the Planning Commission.

1.02 Economic Development will depend on the level of investment. Public sector investment will continue to play a major role in the development process. However, private sector investment will be encouraged especially in infrastructure development by taking resort to Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. An outlay of Rs. 4500 crores is proposed for normal plan and Rs. 1017.91 crore for Reconstruction Plan with a total of Rs. 5517.91 crore. This represents a step up of 12.5% in Normal Plan, 19.75% in Reconstruction Plan and 13.77% in the overall plan outlay. The proposed step up under Normal Plan is less than the step up agreed by the Planning Commission in 2007-08 over 2006-07.

1.03 The outlay for Annual Plan 2007-08 had been fixed at Rs.4000 crores. In addition, an amount of Rs. 850 crores was agreed under Reconstruction plan. An expenditure of Rs. 1335.46 crores has been incurred up to the end of October, 2007. This constitutes about 27.54% of the outlay. The expenditure in the 1st two quarter is normally lower because:

- It takes some time for the District Development Boards to approve the respective Annual Plans (the district component constitutes about 40% of the total outlay).
- Some time is required for procedural matters like invitation of tenders, scrutinizing the proposals by purchase committees etc. The expenditure, therefore, picks up during 3rd and 4th quarters. The government proposes to ensure that the time lost in procedural matters is reduced to the minimum. The pre-ponement of the budget and finalization of the plan allocation before the beginning of the financial year are steps taken in this respect.

1.04 The growth rate in GSDP at constant (1993-94) prices had gone up to about 6% in 2006-07. The economy is expected to grow by 6.50% during the current year and by 7.50% in 2008-09.

1.05 The plan has been made more capital intensive by transferring the committed liabilities on account of plan schemes to the non plan. While it was not possible to transfer the entire amount in one year, the process has been set in motion and is expected to be completed during the next financial year, so that the plans committed liabilities up to the end of 10th plan would be transferred to the non plan before the beginning of 2009-10.

1.06 In order that, the investment is more focused, the State Government has decided that the 11th plan will include three sub plans viz:

- ✓ A sectoral sub plan covering the core sectors of Health, Education, Road Connectivity and Power.
- ✓ An operational sub-plan, which will aim at completion of all ongoing works which can physically be completed in the 11th Five Year Plan period, accessing central funds to the optimum level by providing State Share for schemes and accessing financial assistance for externally aided projects (EAPs) to the maximum extent possible.
- ✓ A functional sub plan, which will be in the form of maintenance plan and will aim at maintenance of the existing capacity.
- ✓ **Banking & Finance**
- ✓ The overall fiscal position of the State as reflected in terms of key parameters– revenue, fiscal and primary deficits-indicates improvement in the fiscal situation during 2006-07 over the previous year. The improvement in fiscal position of the State during the current year was mainly on account of increase of Rs. 833 crore in non-debt receipts of the State. There was only a marginal increase in the total expenditure during the current year due to decline of Rs. 564 crore in capital expenditure over previous year leading to improvement in the fiscal deficit of the State. Further, the revenue expenditure which has increased by 7 per cent (Rs. 693 crore) during 2006-07 was essentially on account of a steep increase of 12 per cent in non-plan revenue expenditure (Rs. 1,056 crore) which was counterbalanced by a decline of 30 per cent in plan revenue expenditure (Rs. 363 crore). The non-plan revenue expenditure of the State at Rs. 9,781 crore was significantly higher by 65 per cent than the normative assessment of TFC (Rs. 5,926 crore). The continued prevalence of fiscal deficit along with negative balance from current revenue might hamper the process of achieving debt stabilization and improving the debt sustainability of the State unless suitable measures are initiated by the State Government in medium and long run.
- ✓ At the end of June 2007 in Jammu and Kashmir, there were 28 scheduled commercial banks, which included 20 public sector banks, 5 private sector banks, and 3 RRBs. There is no foreign bank in the state. The total number of branches of scheduled commercial banks stood at 875 with rural branches accounting for the major share.

Deposits, Credit and CD ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks in J&K (In Rs. Crore)

Population Groups	Jammu and Kashmir						All India					
	Deposits		Credit		CD Ratio		Deposits		Credit		CD Ratio	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Marc h 2005	Marc h 2006	Marc h 2005	Marc h 2006	Marc h 2005	Marc h 2006	March 2005	March 2006	March 2005	March 2006	Marc h 2005	Marc h 2006
Rural	7184	5915	1607	1561	22.4	26.4	213536	226534	106497	127445	49.9	56.3
	(41.6)	(30.7)	(24.5)	(18.0)			(12.2)	(10.8)	(9.2)	(8.4)		
Semi-urban	1920	3752	672	1212	35.0	32.3	296303	302245	130596	151076	44.1	50.0
	(11.1)	(19.5)	(10.1)	(14.0)			(16.9)	(14.4)	(11.3)	(10.0)		
Urban	8170	9615	4394	5886	53.8	61.2	1243334	1564262	920714	1238976	74.1	79.2
	(47.3)	(49.5)	(65.8)	(68.0)			(70.9)	(74.7)	(79.5)	(81.6)		
Total	17273	19281	6673	8659	38.8	44.9	1753174	2093042	1157807	1517497	66.0	72.5
	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)			(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)		
Note: Figures in brackets are percentages to total.						Source: Banking Statistics-Quarterly Handout.						

- ✓ At the end of March 2007 the total outstanding deposits of the state were Rs. 21956 crore out of which urban branches had the maximum share of 50.0 per cent, followed by rural branches (29.0). Out of the bank credit of Rs.10377 crore as at end March 2007, urban branches had maximum share of 65.9 per cent followed rural branches 18.5 per cent. The credit-deposit (C-D) ratio was highest for urban branches (62.2) followed by semi urban branches (35.2) than rural branches (30.2).

- ✓ **Deposits, Credit and CD ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks in J&K as on March, 2007** (Amount in Rs. crore)

Population Group	Jammu & Kashmir			All India		
	Deposit	Credit	CD Ratio	Deposit	Credit	CD Ratio
Rural	6367	1920	30.2	258128	154785	60.0
	(29.0)	(18.5)		(8.9)	(7.9)	
Semi Urban	4605	1621	35.2	356827	189783	53.2
	(21.0)	(15.6)		(12.3)	(9.7)	
Urban	10983	6836	62.2	1983868	1604999	80.9
	(50.0)	(65.9)		(68.4)	(82.3)	
Total	21956	10377	47.2	2598823	1949563	67.3
	(100)	(100)		(100)	(100)	

- ✓ Note: Figures in brackets are percentages to total. Source: Banking Statistics-Quarterly Handout.

10. Agriculture & Allied Sectors

Agriculture is the main stay of State Economy as more than 75% of the population derives their income directly or indirectly from Agriculture Sector. Agriculture is a vital component of Primary sector. The Jammu and Kashmir State is basically agrarian in nature. As per census 2001, 18.38 lakh persons comprising 15.92 lakhs as cultivators and 2.46 lakhs as agricultural labourers depend directly on agriculture for their livelihood forming 49 percent of the total working force (37.54 lakh persons). The Agriculture and allied sectors contributed about 27% to the GSDP while as Agriculture sector specifically contributed 8 to 9% to the GSDP during 2006-07. During 2006-07, 11.26 lakh hectares is the Gross Area Sown out of which 4.59 lakh hectares (40.76 per cent) are irrigated. The Net Area Sown is 7.41 lakh hectares out of which 3.09 lakh hectares, constituting 41.70 per cent, are irrigated. The cropping intensity for the year 2006-07 stands at 152 per cent. The fertilizer consumption has increased to 97.27 thousand tonnes during 2006-07 from 93.90 thousand tonnes of previous year (2005-06).

The latest Agriculture census of 2000-01 indicates the average holding size in the State as 0.66 hectares (13 Kanals) which was 0.10 hectares (2 Kanals) less than the average holding size of 0.76 hectares (15 Kanals) as revealed by 1995-96 Agriculture Census. The number of holdings has increased from 1335.77 thousand in 1995-96 to 1418 thousands in 2000-01, thereby registering an increase of 82.23 thousand within five years.

Agriculture Insurance Scheme has been decentralized from District to Tehsil level from Khariief 2007 for Rice, Maize and Potato crops. This will ensure coverage in case of natural calamities at a more approachable level.

Main crops sown/ Regionwise production of foodgrains						<i>in 000 qtls</i>
Region	Rice	Maize	Wheat	Other cereals & millets	Pulses	Total foodgrains
Kashmir	3723	1022	19	3	46	4813
Jammu	1823	3847	4924	184	89	10867
Ladakh	-	-	40	51	6	97
Total State	5546	4869	4983	238	141	15777

Besides above Basmati Rice of Jammu, Rajmash of Poonch and Saffron of Kashmir are the region specific special crops.

Area and Production of Crops in J&K

S.No	Crops	Area (000 hectares)			Production (000 Qtls)			(Yield rate) Production per hectare		
		2005-06	2006-07	%age increase or decrease	2005-06	2006-07 (P)	%age increase or decrease	2005-06	2006-07	%age increase or decrease
1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9
1	Rice	259.01	252.52	-2.50	5574	5546.059	-0.50	21.52	21.96	+2.04
2	Maize	320.92	323.60	+0.83	4534	4869.00	+7.39	14.13	15.05	+6.51
3	Wheat	252.83	266.11	+5.25	4575	4959.300	+8.40	18.10	18.64	+2.98
4	Pulses	29.27	29.06	-0.72	141	139.137	-1.32	4.61	4.78	+3.69
5	Other Cereals & Millets	38.71	44.26	+14.34	201	238.088	+18.45	5.19	5.38	+3.66
6	Total food grains	900.75	915.53	+1.64	15025	15751.584	+4.83	16.68	17.20	+6.18
7	Oil Seeds	63.01	64.30	+2.05	366	403.814	+10.33	5.81	6.28	+8.09
8	Fruits & Vegetables	76.50	83.95	+9.74	N.A	N.A	NA	N.A	N.A	NA
9	Spices	3.08	2.71	-12.01	29.26	23.87	-18.42	9.50	8.81	-7.26
	Total	1043.34	1066.49	+2.22	15420.26	16179.268	+4.92	14.78	15.17	+2.64

P=Provisional **Source: Agriculture Production Deptt., J&K**

There are two Agriculture Universities viz Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture sciences & Technology (SKUAST) at Jammu and Srinagar to carry forward various research programmes in agricultural sciences apart from various courses offered by these universities. Research activities of the university are carried out in various subject matter divisions for PG level programme in Agriculture & Forestry at main Campus Shalimar, Veterinary sciences at Shauhama and Sericulture at Mirgund, Faculty of agriculture, Wadura for UG level programme. Besides regional research stations and sub stations, located in the broad agroclimatic zones viz temperate (Kashmir region) and cold arid zone (Ladakh region), hot zone (Jammu region) carry out location specific research related to different crops and problems identified through feed back from the end users as a "bottom up" approach.

The flowering bulb propagation industry has been initiated at Nuner Ganderbal in Kashmir Valley after the department of Agriculture implemented a pilot project at Model Floriculture Centre Ganderbal. Technology was imported from Holland. The Liliun bulbs produced in the farm are world class bulbs comparable with those produced in Holland and New Zealand.

During the eight months of current year 42 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) have been revived to facilitate the farming community.

During 10th Plan period, sizeable proportion of State's plan outlay to the tune of Rs. 1507.80 crore was earmarked for Agriculture and Allied Sectors against which an amount of Rs. 1285.47 crore (P) was spent. An amount of Rs. 1818.21 crore has been proposed under 11th plan for implementation of the programmes under Agriculture and Allied Sectors and the Annual Plan outlay proposed for the year 2007-08 is to the tune of Rs. 281.21 crore.

To promote balanced and integrated use of manures and fertilizers, 105 vermi compost units have been established in various parts of the State and during the current financial year (2007-08), 90 vermi compost units are being established under Technology Mission with a financial assistance of Rs. 24.60 lakhs.

A project has been formulated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Technology Mission for revival and giving thrust to the Saffron Development. Its implementation has started in the current year. It seeks to improve the productivity and production of Saffron and to improve the post harvest processing and grading of Saffron. Both area and production of saffron has substantially decreased during the 10th Five Year Plan compared to 9th Five Year Plan. The yield rate has shown a decrease of 100 percent during the period under report.

Tulip Garden, first of its kind has been developed at Siraj Bagh, Kashmir during 2007-08 with the proposed cultivation of 20 lakh tulip bulbs in Phase-I during 10th Plan. Possibility is being explored for establishment of such gardens at Jammu also.

Co-operatives

The Cooperative movement has protected the poor masses, artisans and farmers against the exploitation of money lenders. It plays a notable role in every economic sphere. During last few years, the Cooperative movement in Jammu and Kashmir State has shown significant progress. The number of Cooperative Societies has increased from 1363 in 2001-02 to 1694 in 2006-07. The membership has recorded an increase and reached 5.99 lakhs in the year 2006-07 from 5.48 lakhs in 2003-04. The owned funds and working capital has also increased to Rs. 2811.64 lakhs and Rs. 23079.29 lakhs respectively during the year 2006-07.

Horticulture

Our State is blessed with vast potential for growing all kinds of fruits. The State has four distinct Agro climatic zones i.e. Sub-tropical, Intermediate (Sub-temperate), Temperate and Cold Arid Zone. Apple, Pear, Peach, Plum, Apricot and Walnut are successfully grown in temperate and cold arid areas (Kashmir Division) while as Olive, Pecan nut and Kiwi offer enormous scope for cultivation in Intermediate zone(Jammu Division) of the State. Similarly sub-tropical areas offer potential for cultivation of Mango, Citrus, Ber, Aonla, Guava, Litchi and loquat (Jammu Division). Besides, cash crops and other high value low volume horticultural crops like strawberry etc having relatively inelastic market demand, can thrive well in both the divisions of the State. Growing of high value cash crops on large scale will not only conserve the natural resources, but will also make our farmers prosperous, which will ultimately result in employment generation. Such an orientation of fruit growing to this varied type of climate formed the corner stone of the strategy for development of horticulture in the State during 10th Five Year Plan. The strategy adopted for development of horticulture in the State, therefore, stresses the need for zonalisation of the fruit cultivation.

With an annual turnover of fruits and dry fruits of the order of Rs.2000 crores, horticulture plays a significant role in the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. It is worthwhile to mention here that the horticulture sector has mainly grown through People's own determinant efforts, without any big support from the government and even during the peak of militancy in J&K State. Around 6 lakh farm families comprising 25 - 26 lakh people are connected directly or indirectly with the horticulture sector.

Variety wise area under Fruit (area in 000 hectares)

Year	Apple	Pear	Apricot	Cherry	Other fresh	Walnut	Almond	Other dry	Total fruits
2004-05	107.93	10.54	4.93	2.55	41.62	74.89	15.43	0.42	258.31
2005-06	111.88	11.00	5.16	2.59	43.60	77.22	15.55	0.41	267.41
2006-07	119.04	11.25	5.43	2.75	46.24	81.39	16.37	0.62	283.08

Source: Directorate of Horticulture (P&M), J&K

Area under horticulture produce by end of 2006-07 is 2.83 lakh hectares in the state. Almost 45 per cent of economic returns under Agriculture sector is contributed by Horticulture sector, thereby adding 7 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) as compared to 28% at the National level.

Production of Fruits during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07(000 Mts)

Year	Fresh Fruits				Dry fruits				Total Fruits
	Apple	Pear	Other s	Total	Walnut s	Almond s	Other s	Total	
2004-05	1093.3 3	40.2 5	84.02	1217.6 0	100.60	13.47	0.19	114.2 6	1331.8 6
2005-06	1151.3 4	42.3 6	102.6 6	1296.3 6	108.27	14.33	0.20	122.8 0	1419.1 6
2006-07	1222.1 8	43.0 9	108.4 1	1373.6 8	114.93	15.18	0.22	130.3 3	1504.0 1

Source: Directorate of Horticulture (P&M), J&K

Horticulture provides ample opportunities for sustaining large number of agro industries which generate substantial employment opportunities and ensures exploitation of pre-falls and culls for processing, thereby, providing a strong base of inclusive growth for resolving the problem of unemployment to some extent. Keeping in view its huge potential in terms of production, variety, quality and relative returns, this sector is being treated as one of the core sectors of the State's economy. This sector as a whole is locked in a sub optimal cycle of low productivity and low investment.

Export of fruit outside the State

S. No.	Year	Production			Exports		
		Fresh	Dry	Total	Fresh	Dry	Total
1	2003-04	11.65	1.08	12.74	7.63(65.50)	0.13(12.03)	7.76(60.83)
2	2004-05	12.18	1.14	13.32	8.20(67.32)	0.14(12.28)	8.34(62.61)
3	2005-06	12.96	1.23	14.19	7.60(58.56)	0.09(7.48)	7.69(54.12)
4	2006-07	12.65	1.07	13.73	6.78(53.60)	0.14(13.08)	6.92(50.40)

Figures in brackets indicate percentage of total production)
Source: Directorate of Horticulture (P&M)

(lakh Metric tonnes)

Foreign Exchange Earned on Horticulture Produce

Kind	Quantity Exported (MTs)		Foreign Exchange earned (Rs. in crores)	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
Dry Fruit				
a) Almond	296.45	180.10	1.48	1.30
b) Total Walnut	5256.00	306.64	114.47	63.41
i) in Shell	179.00	282.00		
ii) In Kernal	5077.00	24.64		
Total Dry (a+b)	5552.45	486.74	115.95	64.71

Source: Directorate of Horticulture (P&M), J&K

Livestock

Livestock plays very vital role in the economic development of the State and forms an integral part of State Agriculture. About 75% population of J & K State are dependent on Agriculture as their main occupation. Livestock rearing is their subsidiary occupation as these two sectors are interdependent. Livestock sector engages sizeable number of working force not only in rearing of animals but also in processing, transportation and sale of the animal products.

As per the provisional results of livestock census 2003 total livestock in state has increased from 9.175 million in 1997 to 9.899 millions showing an increase of 7.9%. The density of livestock per sq. km of area of Jammu and Kashmir state was 98 animals against 90 animals for the 16th Livestock Census. The number of livestock per 1000 of population as per 2003 census was 926 animals while as at all India level the number of livestock per 1000 population works out to be only 457 animals. Average livestock per household, as per census figures of 2001, works out to six animals per household for Jammu and Kashmir State as compared to about three animals per household at All India level. This is mainly attributed to the highest presence of live stock in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Kargil of J&K State.

Specie-wise Livestock Population Source: ISS (2006-07)

S.No.	Item	Unit	2006-07
1	2	3	4
1	Cattle	Lakhs	28.82
2	Buffaloes	Lakhs	6.04
3	Sheep	Lakhs	36.60
4	Goats	Lakhs	13.12
5	Fowls	Lakhs	52.68
6	Ducks	Lakhs	5.59
Number of Milch animals			
1	Cross Cows	Lakhs	8.14
2	Local Cows	Lakhs	8.38
3	Buffaloes	Lakhs	4.74
4	Goats	Lakhs	9.43
5	Total no. of Milch animals	Lakhs	30.69
6	Dependency ratio (No. of persons/ livestock)	No. of persons	1.29

In terms of livestock production there is a gap between demand and supply. The quantum of livestock products and by products has increased over the years still the output viz-a-viz the number of animals is not sufficient. The quantity of output

from the hybrid and new breeds of cows are much more than the local one and as such the Government is taking steps to increase the quantum of such livestock to meet the domestic demand for the livestock products. The main livestock products are milk, meat, eggs, and wool. As per the estimates of Integrated Sample Survey (ISS) of major livestock products, the production of milk for the year 2005-06 was estimated at 1430.43 thousand metric tonnes. Presently the per capita availability of milk is about 360 ml. per person per day. The per capita egg production is 48 eggs per year while as the per capita meat production is 2387 gms. per year for the State. The cross breed programme of artificial insemination in the State implemented on large scale resulted in increase of milk production of cows.

Estimated Production of Livestock

S.No.	Particulars	Units	Magnitude (2006-07)
1	2	3	4
1	Milk production	000 Mts	1485.16
2	Wool production	Lakh kgs	68.57
3	Egg production	Lakhs	6263.63
4	Total milk consumed	000 Mts	846.54
5	Total milk sold	000 Mts	475.25
6	Total milk converted into milk products	000 Mts	163.37
7	Total eggs consumed	Lakhs	4697.23
8	Total eggs sold	Lakhs	1566.40
9	Dung production	000 Tonnes	6138.87
10	Meat Production	Lakh kgs	266.12
	i. Red	Lakh kgs	209.30
	ii. White	Lakh kgs	56.82
11	Per capita milk production	(ml. perday)	368.73
12	Per capita egg production	(No.per year)	56.77
13	Per Capita Meat Production	(Gms per year)	2.41
	i. Red		1.90
	ii.White		0.51

Source: ISS (2006-07)

Imports of Live Stock and Fodder in J&K State (Lac Nos)

S.No	Description	Unit	1995-96	2005-06	Increase (%)
A	Livestock				
	1 Sheep & Goats	Lac Nos	9.30	14.66	58
	2 Cows	Lac Nos	0.19	0.25	32
Total	Lac Nos	9.49	14.91	57	
B	Fodder all sorts	000 qtls.	467.63	1118.10	139

Source: Excise Commissioner, J&K

District Budgam and Pulwama rank at the top in terms of Milk production and supply. Uri- karnah belt and Poonch, Rajouri Kishtwar, Doda Districts possess higher population of Goat and Sheep.

Fisheries

The total fishermen population in the State is around 31000. The state has a length of 27781 km of rivers/streams which facilitates the farming of more than 40 million tonnes of fish. Out of total 27781 km of area under fisheries, the State has only 0.07 lakh hectares under reservoir area. Total fish caught during 2006-07 stand at 192 thousand quintals as against 191.50 thousand quintals in 2005-06. The production of famous Kashmiri Trout has increased from 1.5 thousand quintals in 2005-06 to 1.52 thousand quintals in 2006-07. The production of Mirror Carp has increased from 116.68 thousand quintals in 2005-06 to 116.84 thousand quintals in 2006-07 while as the production of Country Fish has increased from 42.93 thousand quintals in 2005-06 to 43.03 thousand quintals in 2006-07. To increase Fish seed production of commercially important fish species the department intends to upgrade the existing 18 fish farms including the 2 National Fish Seed Farms at Kathua and Mansbal by way of increasing their rearing and hatching capacities. The department also established a Mother Unit for Trout culture at Kokernag.

An Aquarium cum Awareness Centre at Bagh-i-Bahu Jammu, first of its kind in the country, has different fish species found in the State and been established in order to create awareness among the masses. Besides it aims at providing recreational attraction.

11. Industry

The Industrial growth in Jammu and Kashmir has remained subdued in the past. There is no major or medium industry in the state. The contribution of this sector both manufacturing registered and unregistered to the Gross Domestic Product is around 6%. Among other factors geographical and topographical conditions hampered the industrial growth as heavy and large scale industries sector could not be tapped due to heavy financial involvement. Except three districts viz jammu, samba and kathua, the whole state posses difficult terrain and landscape. Besides the atmosphere was more conducive to cottage and small scale industries. As a result, the state on industrial front was lagging far behind the other industrially developed States and calls for no comparison with them. This could be well judged by the fact that Index of industrial production (IIP) for the State is worked out to be below 110 by the Directortae of Economics & Stataistics, J&K, whileas many other States in the country has crossed even 200 mark. The State is now on the path of industrialization. The industry sector has been declared as the main vehicle for accelerating economic activity besides providing employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth. The state has got the industrial potential in Bat making, tyres & tube making and newly emerging agro food processing.

With the introduction of Industrial Policy 2004 which will last till 2015, the Industrial scenario presents an encouraging picture. The policy has a slew of incentives in the form of subsidies for all sorts of industries. The policy is besides focussed towards the industries providing employment to local youth.

As on 31-3-2007, 133 Industrial units were set up in the large and medium sector with an investment of Rs. 2500.00 crore providing employment to 20,000 persons. The number of industrial units registered in the small scale industry sector as on 31-3-2007 stood at 49426 providing employment opportunities to 2.26 lakh persons.

Infrastructure development serves as an engine for Industrial development. The Industries and Commerce Department has 37 existing Industrial estates in the State under the control of Directorate of Industries and Commerce and SIDCO/SICOP. Profile of these Industrial Estates is as under.

Existing Industrial Estates

Managing Agency	Industrial Estates (No.)	Area (Kanals)	Units setup
1	2	3	4
Directorate of Industries & Commerce	17	1919	444
J&K SIDCO	14	20680	702
J&K SICOP	6	3223	746
Total	37	25822	1892

In addition more than 30 Industrial Estates are being developed which are at various stages of development. Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur are on the priority list for making them Industrial belts of the sate and are decleread good for industrial development. Construction of 8 storied complex, the Jawahar Lal Nehru Udyog Bhawan at Rail head Jammu is in final stage of completion and is expected to be completed by end of March 2008. industrial growth centre samba is one among the 14 industrial estates managed and developed by the J&K SIDCO, whose major function is to promote medium and large industries in the state. At present 57 units of growth centre arte operational.

Countrywide 5th Economic Census conducted in J&K by Central Statistical Organisation in collaboration with J&K Directorate of Economics and Statistics recorded 324908 Enterprises in the State engaged in different economic activities (other than crop production and plantation). 751525 persons were engaged in these enterprises. Annual average growth of 6.03% and 6.82% was recorded in the number of enterprises and number of persons employed respectively during the period 1998-2005.

Growth in Small Scale Industrial Units				
Year (As on March)	No. of SSI units registered	Employment Generated (No.)	%age Increase in	
			SSI units	Employment
1	2	3	4	5
2001-02	43689	193285	-	-
2002-03	44701	197578	2.31	2.22
2003-04	45672	203428	2.17	2.96
2004-05	46818	209322	2.50	2.89
2005-06	48224	219127	3.00	4.68
2006-07	49426	225963	2.49	3.11

Source: Directorate of Industries & Commerce (J&K)

Geology & Mining

To exploit the mineral resources of the State, the Geology and Mining Department is undertaking geological investigations/surveys/drilling etc. It collects and analyses the samples for which there are two Chemical Mineral Testing Laboratories one each at Srinagar and Jammu. During the year 2006-07 the department has done drilling of 2.43 thousand meters, collected and analysed 430 and 570 samples. During the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 1003.54 lakh was received as revenue (Royalty) which is 22% higher than previous year. As on 31-3-2007 the Geology and Mining Department has constructed 300 tube wells for Potable water and Irrigation. Extraction of minor minerals valued Rs. 4798.92 lakhs which has risen by 30.15% as against 2005-06.

Sericulture

Sericulture is an agro based labour intensive cottage industry providing gainful employment to rural people. It is a beneficial activity and involves men and women both in rural and urban areas. Sericulture activity covers plantation of mulberry trees, culturing of silkworms and production of cocoons and raw silk. To promote sericulture industry in the State 4 cocoonware houses at Nandali, Sunderbani, Mirgund and Berigam are being constructed under Prime Minister's Special Financial Package. The cocoon ware houses at Udhampur, Jammu and Srinagar are already operational. Also 34 Chawki rearing centres are being laid under Prime Minister's package. Profile of sericulture activity in the State indicates that 21000 families in 2210 villages of the State were engaged in this pursuit as on 31-3-2007. Production of cocoons during the year 2006-07 has been recorded as 8.34 thousand quintals showing an increase of 15.83% over previous year. Seeds produced and seeds imported were 20 thousand and 5 thousand ounces respectively during 2006-07. The rearers have made sales worth Rs. 726.00 lakhs during 2006-07.

12. Tourism

Jammu and Kashmir is a mainstream tourist destination in view of its vast tourism potential. The State is endowed with world class tourism potential ranging from the historical and natural sites to its scenic beauty. The other important aspect of Tourism potential is the existence of shrines, monasteries, temples and cave temples. Various places of the State attract tourists across the world. Expenditure by tourists has multiplier effect. Tourism sustains many sectors like trade, hotels & restaurants, transporters etc. and is considered as a key for economic development. The State has the potential for all types of tourism like leisure tourism, adventure tourism, pilgrim tourism, sports tourism, winter sports tourism, water sports etc.

The Kashmir Valley during 2006 attracted 432,890 tourists of which 20,010 Tourists were foreigners. However, the number of tourists to Kashmir valley has declined by 28.49% when compared with the previous year. 43900 tourists visited Ladakh during 2006 showing a significant increase of 14.20% over 2005. In addition 214000 yatris were recorded to have visited Amarnath Ji cave during 2007, the number of yatris to Amarnath Cave has shown declining trend constantly for last three years. The fall in the number of yatris and tourists to Kashmir valley during 2006 has occurred due to occasional incidents of violence.

Corporation/Societies: J&K Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC), Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), J&K State Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) are functioning in the Tourism Sector. In addition, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar has been functioning as a society.

Presently the Corporation has huts/tourist banglows/cafeterias, restaurants/ tents (for specific areas) and commercial transport comprising deluxe coaches/vans, tempos etc. The services provided are limited to lodging, boarding and transport only.

Royal Spring Golf Course (RSGC): The Royal Spring Golf Course is located in an area of scenic beauty on the foot hills of Zabarwan Hills and on the bank of World famous Dal Lake. The 18 Holes Golf Course with practice four ways of approximate 225 Mts. length has three lakes, two marshes, under ground sprinkler irrigation system, comfort stations, rain shelters, full-fledged maintenance complex, a club house and about 8 ½ km long cart path. The Golf course is equipped with state of the art machinery and exotic grass.

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC): The State of Jammu and Kashmir has only one convention centre of International standards which is used as a platform for holding various conferences and conventions of national and state level. This convention centre helps to promote Jammu and Kashmir as an ideal place for holding conferences and seminars which promotes State's tourism and tourism related activities.

J&K State Cable Car Corporation Limited: Both the phases of Gulmarg Gandola Project from Gulmarg to Afarwat have been operationlised. Thousands of tourists enjoy Gandola ride every year. It is also a good revenue earner to the State

Jammu Division promotes pilgrim tourism. Jammu city, called the city of temples, and along with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, a year-round attraction, maintains a healthy flow of tourists into Jammu. The number of pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine is increasing constantly. 62.52 lakh and 69.50 lakh pilgrims visited the

Shrine during 2005 and 2006 recording an increase of 11.16% over 2005. On an average 5.50 lakh yatries have been recorded visiting this Shrine per month during the year 2007. The Tourism Department generated revenue earnings of Rs. 7346.51 lakh during the years 2004-05 to 2006-07.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Government is making all out efforts to bring on rails the Tourism industry again which has received a major jolt due to 1990's insurgency, by both development of tourism infrastructure as well as exploiting the available tourism potential to the optimal level. In this direction the following significant measures have been taken.

- 15 new Tourism Development Authorities have been made functional during 2006-07. 12 Tourism Development Authorities are being funded under Prime Minister's Re-construction Plan with the Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 20.00 crore each authority for a period of 5 years.
- 50 villages are being developed as Tourist villages under Prime Minister's Re-construction Plan.
- Three Tourist circuits viz i) Jammu-Rajouri –Poonch ii) Baderwah-Kishtwar-Sinthan-Srinagar and iii) Lakhanpur-Bani-Basholi-Sarthal have been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India at a total cost of Rs. 21.69 crore and entrusted to CPWD for execution.
- The Tourism Department is implementing two incentive package schemes having the twin benefits of (i) Reviving Tourism in the State and ii) Providing self employment to educated unemployed youth.

13. Human Resource Development

Health

The Health of a particular area or region is an essential component of development, vital to area/ region's economic growth and internal stability. Assuring a minimum level of health care to the population is a critical constituent of the development process.

Considerable achievements have been made over the last six decades to improve health standards such as Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Crude Death Rate (CDR) etc. Some of the Health Indicators in comparison to All India Level are given below:

S.No	Indicator	J & K	All India
1	Sex Ratio	892	933
2	Crude Birth Rate(CBR) (Per thousand population)	18.9	23.8
3	Crude Death Rate(CDR) (Per thousand population)	5.5	7.6
4	Total Fertility Rate (TFR) (Per Woman)	2.4	2.9
5	Institutional births (%)	54.3	40.7
6	Full immunization (%)	66.7	43.5
7	Couple Protection Rate (CPR)	15.9	46.6

The state has made considerable progress in the field of medical education. There are two medical colleges under the university of Kashmir Srinagar and two under University of Jammu. A full fledged medical institute, Sher-i-Kashmir Medical Institute, is functioning at Bemina, Srinagar. The institute has more than 600- bed complement and provides facilities for the post-graduate medical education and medical research.

There are 3698 health institutions of various levels in the State. One health institution caters to 3127 person with one doctor catering to about 2266 persons on an average. The number of beds available for one lakh of population is 108. Though there has been a steady increase in health care infrastructure since independence period, yet the State is facing the shortage of infrastructure both qualitatively and quantitatively. The State has projected the additional requirement of 1288 institutions of various categories to the Govt. of India.

As a major step to provide better health care in tertiary health sector, Government Medical College, Jammu and Srinagar have been approved for upgradation to the level of AIIMS at an estimated cost of Rs.120 crore each with State Share of Rs.20 crore under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan (PMRP). The works are under execution.

The construction work in 22 District/Sub-district Hospitals has been started during last 5 years which shall be completed in the 11th Plan.

A separate Dental College for Jammu Division has been established. The Intake capacity of Dental College, Srinagar increased from 20 to 50. 990 posts created including 320 Dental Surgeons and 34 faculty members for the Dental College, Jammu and Srinagar. Construction work of Phase-I of these colleges has been completed. Phase-II is under execution.

NRHM had been launched in the State to strengthen public health care delivery system by community ownership of health facilities and increasing access to health care at household level through the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). 9500 ASHAs have been selected under NRHM, 45 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) made functional for 24x7 services, 13 Community Health Centres (CHCs) upgraded to the level of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), 14 Sub District Hospitals (SDHS) upgraded as First Referral Units. One State Health Society and 12 District Health Societies constituted 463 Rogi Kalyan Samitis set up.

Education

As per census 2001, the literacy rate in the State was 55.52% as against 64.84% at All India Level. However, due to implementation of various intervention programmes viz Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) etc., the level of literacy has gone up to 65.3% as shown by the results of the 60th round of NSS conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the State but it still lags behind its adjoining States. The gender gap in literacy to the extent of 23.6% still exists which is another issue of concern to be addressed.

Major Education Statistics of the J&K State (2004-05) in comparison to All India Level (2004-05) is reflected below:

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in classes (1 to VIII) is 74.45% in J&K as against 93.54% at all India Level.
- Dropout rate for classes (I-X) is 53.75% as compared to 61.92% at National Level.
- Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at Primary level is 1:34 in the State as against 1:46 at National Level. Similarly, the PTR at Upper Primary Level is 1:16 in the State as against 1:35 at National Level.
- On an average one lakh population is catered to by 153 Elementary Level Schools as against 97 such schools at National Level.
- In Secondary/Higher Secondary Education there are 13 schools per lakh population as against 14 schools at National Level.
- On an average, one University in the State caters to the educational needs of 11.80 lakh of population as against 27.4 lakh at National level. Similarly, one college caters to the educational requirements of 2.12 lakh of population as against 1.04 lakh at National level.

Apart from low level of literacy and gender gap in the literacy, quality of education is another issue of concern. As per the NCERT report 2003, on assessment of class-v students, the learning achievement in mathematics and language in Primary Classes in J&K is 36.3% and 49.59% respectively, as against the national average of 46.51% in Mathematics and 58.57% in language.

Only 75% of primary schools teachers in the State are trained as against the national average of 89% trained primary teachers.

School Education (Elementary and Secondary)

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) a flagship programme is being implemented in the State in its totality 3542 new Primary School were opened, 2760 Primary Schools upgraded to the level of Upper Primary Schools, 6798 Education Guarantee Centres opened and 15439 Teachers had been appointed under SSA upto end of March, 2007. The enrolment in Government Schools has increased from 14.50 lakhs in

2002 to 18.43 lakhs in 2006. The number of out of school children has been brought down to the level of 1.08 lakh as against 3.59 lakhs in the year 2002.03.

Mid Day Meal Scheme is in operation in the State benefiting 9.83 lakhs of children. From Oct., 2007 it has been extended to Upper Primary Level as well which will benefit additional 3.08 lakh children.

At present, there are 13144 Primary Schools with enrolment of 12.36 lakhs and 5131 Middle Schools with 4.77 lakhs students, 1029 Govt. High Schools and 479 Govt. Higher Secondary Schools are functioning in the State out of which 236 High Schools and 218 Higher Secondary Schools have been upgraded in the 10th plan period. Besides, 594 High and 127 Higher Secondary Schools are functioning in the private sector.

4119 Primary Schools, 628 Middle Schools, 68 Govt. High Schools and 7 Govt. Higher Secondary Schools are without own buildings. 1474 Primary School buildings are in dilapidated conditions

During 11th Plan the major issues of concern which needs to be addressed are:

- Low Literacy Rate
- Infrastructural Deficiencies.
- More Thrust on Quality of Education.
- Improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratio.
- All out of school children to be brought back to the school.

More emphasis shall have to be laid upon the secondary education in order to consolidate the gains of SSA and to move forward in establishing a knowledgeable society.

Higher and Technical Education

22 new Degree Colleges have been setup in the State. Out of these, 14 are under construction with the financial assistance from Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan(PMRP) at an earmarked outlay of Rs.49 crore, 4 colleges shall be taken up under assistance to be provided by Ministry of Human Resources Development (MOHRD)/ University Grants Commission (UGC) and other 4 shall be taken under State Plan.

In the State, with the setting up of three more universities, namely, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah at Rajouri, Islamic University of Science and Technology at Awantipora, Kashmir and Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra, the number of Universities in the State rose to eight. These universities provide education in wide range of courses of Graduation and Post Graduation level. Besides, four mini campuses of the University of Kashmir and the University of Jammu are being set up with the financial assistance of UGC. These campus are located at Baramulla (North Campus) and Anantnag (South Campus) under University of Kashmir and Baderwah and Kathua under University of Jammu. Two additional mini campuses in Poonch and Udhampur have also been sanctioned.

9 new Women ITIs and 12 Women wings in the existing ITIs have been established under PMRP at a cost of Rs.30.60 crore. 5 additional ITIs have been approved during 2007-08. Besides initiatives have been taken up by the Education Department for creating "Centres of Excellence" to upgrade/modernize ITIs in order to impart the training to unemployed youth.

In Higher and Technical Education, focus shall be laid to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) which is only 5% in the State as against 11% at National Level besides strengthening of infrastructure in the existing colleges during 11th Plan.

14. Infrastructure

Power

Water resources of the State are like the oil resources of the Arab Countries. The estimated hydropower potential of the State is 20000 MWs of which 16480 MWs have been identified. Out of the identified potential, only 1478.70 MWs have been exploited by the end of 10th Five year plan (2006-07). Through commissioning of Dulhusti Project, additional capacity of 390 MWs was added during 2007-08 (ending October, 2007), thereby, registering a total Generation Capacity of 1868.70 MWs, which was contributed by the projects under Central Sector (1560.00 MWs) and State Sector (308.70 MWs). There is likely addition of 450 MWs during second half of financial year 2007-08 by commissioning of much awaited Baglihar-Ist Project. Besides, the State has the installed capacity of 119MWs through Diesel Projects and 175 MWs from Gas turbines. The Diesel and Gas options are resorted to during emergencies because of the exorbitant costs involved in Power generation from these sources which are used during emergencies.

Installed Capacity of Power Houses owned by the State

S.No.	Name of the Power House	Installed Capacity (MWs)	Energy Generated (2006-07) (MUs)	Energy Generated (2007-08) (P) (MUs)
A-	Thermal			
1	Gas Turbine Pampore- I	75.00	0.00	1.562
2	Gas Turbine-II	100.00	0.00	1.562
3	Diesel	19.00	12.44	16.126
	Total	194.00	12.44	19.25
B-	Hydel			
	Total Hydel	308.70	989.79	1035.24
C-	Gross Power Generated	502.70	1002.235	1054.49
	Intermediate Consumption (Baglihar+ Auxiliary Consumption)		30.99	30.34
D-	Net Power Generated	502.70	971.34	1024.15

P= Projected

Source:-PDD, (J & K)

Installed capacity of Power houses under Central Sector

S.No.	Project	Sector	MWs
1	NHPC-Salal(Reasi)	Central Sector	690
2	NHPC-Uri-I (Baramulla)	Central Sector	480
3	Dulhasti(Kishtwar)	Central Sector	390
	Total		1560

Source: PDD, (J & K)

Power Projects under execution under State Sector

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MWs)	Expected Commissioning Date
1	Baglihar-I (Ramban)	450.00	2007 - 2008
2	Pahalgam (3rd unit) (Anantnag)	1.50	2008 - 2009
3	Matchil (Kupwara)	0.35	2008 - 2009
5	Sanjak (Kargil)	1.26	2008 - 2009
6	Bhadarwah (3rd unit) (Kishtwar)	0.50	2008 - 2009
T o t a l		453.61	

Source: PDD, J & K

The State Government is developing the Power sector for economic growth of the State. With the initial status of Hydropower generation of 1478.70 MWs at the end of 10th Plan, and with the addition of 6839.56 MWs during 11th Five Year Plan, cumulative generation of 8316.26 MWs will be realised, thereby covering 50.46 percent of the potential identified. Addition of another 1200 MWs is envisaged by the end of 12th Five Year Plan.

Under Power Sector Rs. 3875.82 crore were approved as outlay for the years 2002-07, against which Rs. 3045.15 crore were spent on all the projects/schemes. Amounts of Rs. 8196.95 crore have been earmarked for this sector under 11th Five Year Plan which is 112 percent more than that of 10th Plan Outlay. The approved outlay 2007-08 is to the tune of Rs. 1162.27 crore. Rs. 18912.25 crore has been earmarked under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Programme for development of Power in the State.

Connectivity

The problem of connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir operates at two levels: the problem of road connectivity to J&K - the state is connected to the rest of the country through just one highway; and the problem of road connectivity within J&K - there is a huge disparity in the road density across districts in the state. This disparity is particularly pronounced in the rural roads sector.

The Jammu & Kashmir National highway NH1A, the lifeline that connects the state to the rest of the country, is considered to be most expensive road for maintenance in the world. Jawahar Tunnel is 90 Kms from Srinagar and 210 Kms from Jammu.

The alternate to the surface transport, i.e., the railways is still at the stage of introduction, covering a nominal portion of the State. The vital rail link is absent in eighteen districts so far. However, efforts are on in the Valley for establishing internal rail connectivity, the outcome whereof is still evading its completion. This connectivity scenario has rendered the State totally dependent on road connectivity which provides links to remote areas, accessibility to markets, schools, hospitals, and opens up backward regions to trade and investment.

36205 Km of roads were maintained by all the agencies (State and Central Departments) as on 31-3-2006 in the State. Alone Public Works Department maintained 15768 Kms. as on March 2006 excluding National Highways. The BRO maintained National Highways. Total road length maintained by Border Roads Organization as on 31.3.2006 was 5985 Kms. Irrigation and Flood Control maintained 477 Kms, Forest Deptt. 10620 Kms and CD & NES 3355 Kms. as on 31-3-2006. Thus the respective year's percentage share of the departments in the total

road infrastructure is 43.6% of PWD, 29.3% of Forest Deptt., 16.5% of BRO, 9.3% of CD & NES department and 1.3% of Irrigation and Flood Control Deptt.

At the end of March, 2006 data on road length reveals that proportion of surfaced roads was 20895 Kms. (57.7%) and that of un-surfaced roads was 15310 Kms (42.30%). During the year 2005-06 all the department have collectively added 502 Kms. or 1.4% to the existing roads of the State.

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) is emerging as an important sector in transforming the socio-economic lives of the people. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to accord industry status to Information Technology in the State. To promote Information Technology, the State Government established a separate Information Technology Department in 2002 which is looking after technological related issues of the industry.

The Information Technology Industry is not so well developed in the State. However, the state is marching very fast towards creating a conducive atmosphere for this knowledge based industry. An Electronic Industrial Park has been set up at Rajbagh in Srinagar and a software technological park has been set up at Rangreth, the first phase whereof was commissioned in 2001. The Information Technology Department has so far established 135 Community Information Centres at the block level.

Posts & Telegraphs

There were 1691 post offices, as on March 31, 2007 throughout the length and breadth of the State. There were 9 Head Post Offices, one each in Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Leh, Srinagar, Udhampur and Rajouri and two Head Post Offices in Jammu district. Head Post Office Rajouri was opened during the year 2006-07. The number of post offices in J&K has remained stagnant around 1690, over the years.

In the State, on an average one post office (all categories put together) had to serve an area of 60 sq. km and 7021 persons, as on March 31, 2007. The inter-district comparison of postal network reveals that Jammu district, with 235 post offices or 13.90 percent share in the total post offices of the state, is best served having one post office, on an average, to serve an area of 13.18 sq km, followed by Srinagar district with one post office per 13.44 sq km. This indicator places districts of Leh and Kargil at the lowest ebb, with coverage area served at 835.37 sq kms and 269.92 sq kms respectively. Among other districts, it is only district Doda where this facility is stretched above state average with 87.90 sq kms per post office and is thus most disadvantageously placed. However, when the postal network is related to population served, districts of Leh and Kargil with one post office to serve on an average 2541 people and 2685 people are ranked first and second respectively.

The telecommunication has shown tremendous growth in the past few years particularly with the launching of cellular services in the state in August 2003. Though Jammu and Kashmir was a late entrant into this telecom segment, it has caught up with the rest of the country. The teledensity (phones per 100 of population) of the state as of June 2006 was 11.0, only marginally short of the national average of 13.7. Disaggregated figures, however, show that the telecom penetration has been uneven across the urban and rural segments. While the urban teledensity of J&K at 39.86 compares favourably with the national average of 42.65, rural density at 0.84 is significantly below the national average of 1.85.

In the mobile segment, there has been a boom in the state, like rest of the country. In a short span of four years, the subscriber figures crossed 17 lakh. In October 2007, the subscriber base of the mobile service providers – Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Bharti Televentures (Airtel) and Dishnet Wireless (Aircel) – was 17, 06,488.

Of the 6652 villages in the state, there were Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in only 5092 villages as on March 31, 2006, leaving a balance of 1560 villages to be covered. In percentage terms, 76.5% have been covered under VPTs and 23.5% are yet to be covered.

Irrigation

As is well known, the advent of dwarf varieties of wheat and the high yielding varieties of seeds of paddy ushered in the green revolution. The technology occupied the centre stage of the agricultural development strategy. However, it is also a fact that the modern farming technology has been successful only in irrigated areas, that is why the green revolution has been restricted mostly to the north-western states. Like Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir is also deficient in rainfall. Therefore, productivity is directly related to the availability of assured irrigation. A major constraint to the development of agriculture in J&K is the fact that 58% of the net area sown is un-irrigated. The ultimate irrigation potential has been assessed at 13.58 lakh hectares. However, as per draft 11th Plan document, the state has been able to create a total potential of 507 thousand hectares only and only 345 thousand hectares of potential is being utilized.

Area Irrigated by Source			
<i>(Thousand hectares)</i>			
Source	Net area irrigated		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1. Canals	286 (91.96)	289.3 (92.7)	286.64 (92.6)
2. Tanks	4 (1.29)	4.2 (1.35)	4.24 (1.36)
3. Wells	1 (0.32)	1 (0.32)	1.04 (0.34)
4. Other sources	20 (6.43)	17.6 (5.63)	17.52 (5.7)
Total	311	312.1	309.4
<i>(Figures in brackets indicate percentage)</i>			
<i>Source: FC (Revenue), J&K</i>			

28 major / medium irrigation schemes are under implementation in the state during the current year, 9 of which are funded under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and the rest are funded by state plan exclusively. In the first year of the 11th Plan, 3 new schemes, viz. Ahaji Canal, Budgam (20.52 crore), Babul Canal, Baramulla (12.34 crore) and Kandi Canal, Bhadarwah (53.70 crore) have been started. Besides, some major projects under modernization scheme, viz. Ranbir Canal, New Partap Canal and Kathua canal are also underway.

15. Poverty & Unemployment

As per the latest special Poverty survey conducted by the Directorate of Economics & statistics, the estimates of Poverty in Jammu & Kashmir are given as under;

Results of BPL Survey- 2007

	Estimated Number of BPL Persons (Lakh Nos)	% age of BPL population
Rural	22.00	26.14
Urban	2.21	7.96
Combined	29.21	21.63

BPL Survey Results at a Glance (J&K)

- The Head Count Poverty Ratio of J&K State has decreased from 30.34, 9.18 and 25.17 percent for rural, urban and combined respectively during the year 1993-94 to 26.14, 7.96 and 21.63 percent during the year 2007-08 as per BPL Survey conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Jammu and Kashmir. The poverty ratio of J&K State during these years has decreased by 14.06 percent from the base year 1993-94 while as at national level it has decreased by 22 percent.
- At All India Level the Head Count Poverty Ratio has decreased by 49.89 percent (54.88 percent to 27.50 percent) from base year 1973-74 to 2004-05 while as per the fresh BPL survey conducted by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the poverty ratio of the J&K State has decreased by 47.02 percent (40.83 percent to 21.63 percent) from the base year 1973-74 to 2007-08 which shows the same trend as observed at All India level. The Poverty figures thrown out by the BPL Survey 2007-08 conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (J&K) are reasonably realistic and in tandem with the trend of poverty decrease during the years under reference vis-à-vis the scenario of Poverty prevailing at the National Level.
- The study has revealed that generally the newly carved out districts out of the erstwhile districts have shown higher BPL population percentage than the already existing districts. This is mainly due to their remoteness from their erstwhile district headquarters resulting in slow development and are hence still rural in character/nature. The worst incidence of poverty is exhibited in remotely and distantly placed districts/areas.
- It has also been established that the degree of poverty becomes more visible and pronounced, the farther we move away from the urban business centres and district headquarters. Out of newly created eight districts, three districts Reasi, Ramban and Kishtwar hold rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively registering more than 30 percent incidence of poverty thereby exhibiting the worst position of the districts.
- As per the BPL survey 2008 results, the District wise analysis of the incidence of poverty distribution shows that, out of the total 22 districts of the State, 7 (31.82 percent) districts recorded 30-40 percent poverty, 9(40.91 percent) districts recorded 20-30 percent poverty, 5 (22.72 percent) districts recorded 10-20 percent poverty and one (4.55 percent) district recorded 0-10 percent poverty.
- On the basis of BPL Head Count Ratio and BPL Household Count Ratio the seven poorest districts in the State are Reasi, Ramban, Kishtwar, Poonch, Kupwara, Kargil, and Bandipora which have more than 30 percent Estimated BPL Population ranging from 37.93 to 31.09 percent. The BPL household percentage of these districts range

from 42.73 to 35.87 percent though the ranking on the basis of household count ratio varies.

➤ The incidence of Poverty at division/regional level is almost uniformly scattered. The BPL Head Count Ratio of Kashmir region has been estimated at 21.37 percent of the total population while that of Ladakh region the estimates have been worked out at 27.03 percent. The indicator of Kashmir division has been estimated at 21.60 percent of the total population. The BPL Head Count Ratio of Jammu region/division has been estimated at 21.67 percent of the total population.

➤ In Jammu division district Reasi (37.93 percent), Ramban (37.73 percent), Kishtwar (37.72 percent) and Poonch (33.67 percent) have registered highest incidence of poverty while as district Srinagar has registered lowest BPL Head Count Ratio (6.51 percent) followed by district Anantnag with 14.46 percent BPL population. In Kashmir division Kupwara (32.55 percent), Bandipora (31.09 percent) and Kargil (31.90 percent) have been observed to be the poorest districts while as district Kathua has registered lowest BPL Head Count Ratio (11.72 percent) followed by district Jammu with 11.97 percent BPL population.

➤ On the basis of Absolute BPL Population and Absolute BPL Household the seven poorest districts in the State are Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam, Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri and Pulwama which have more than 1.27 lakh Estimated BPL Population ranging from 2.37 to 1.27 lakh Estimated BPL Population. The Absolute BPL households of these districts range from 41 thousand to 22 thousand but the ranking on the basis of household count ratio varies.

➤ The data analysis has revealed that, the incidence of poverty is more concentrated in rural areas than urban areas of the State which highlights the observed reality that as we move away from the district headquarters and towns which are the main centres of commercial activities, the abjectness of poverty is on rise.

➤ At Rural level, in the State the highest BPL population percentage has been observed in District Reasi (40.15 percent) followed by District Kishtwar with (40.10 percent) while as Srinagar District (8.16 percent) recorded lowest BPL population percentage followed by District Kathua (12.66 percent).

➤ At Urban level, in the State the highest BPL population percentage has been observed in District Kulgam (15.83 percent) followed by District Pulwama with (14.00 percent) while as Shopian District (5.33 percent) recorded lowest BPL population percentage followed by District Leh (5.37 percent).

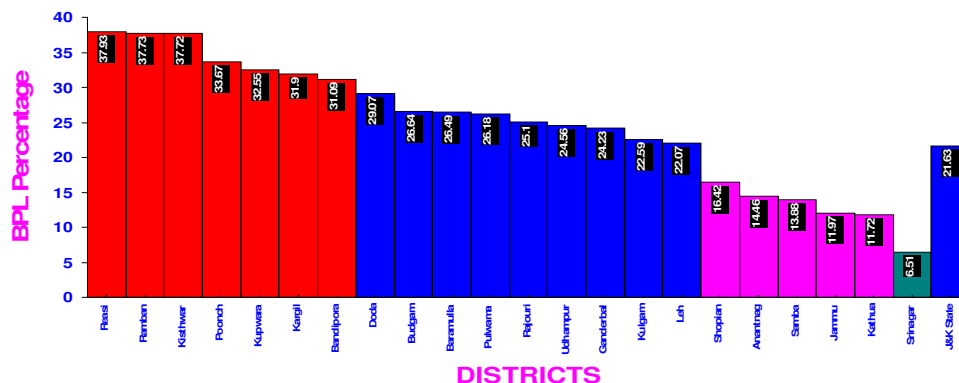
➤ 8 percent of the sample villages have recorded more than 50 percent of Below Poverty Line Population which includes 3.36 percent villages having above 70 percent incidence of poverty. About 505 villages have more than 50 percent poverty which includes 212 villages having poverty above 70 percent, as per the estimates worked out on the basis of the BPL survey of the State. 17 Wards (19 percent) have recorded more than 15 percent below poverty population.

➤ The remote and far-flung areas of the State have registered very high incidence of poverty as they are the worst sufferers and lack access to basic amenities of life and are suffering from inadequacy of socio-economic infrastructure.

➤ The Sex Ratio of BPL Population is better than the general population but still it is below the standard norm where as the average BPL Household size is less than the general population which may be attributed among others to segregation of the families in order to get the government assistance.

- The total BPL population when compared with the respective population of a particular category shows the dispersion of 42.05 percent in case of Scheduled Tribes, 38.07 percent in case of Other Backward Classes (including Paharis), 22.77 percent in case of Scheduled Caste while as others categories show only 16.85 percent of population under Below Poverty Line. This shows that highest incidence of poverty is among Scheduled Tribe population followed by OBC Category inclusive of Pahari speaking population.
- As per the sample survey results , at State level (Rural+Urban) the BPL population comprised of 22.68 percent of the total population of the State with the distribution of 17.76 percent as followers of Islam, 4.63 percent Hindus 0.20 percent followers of Buddhism , 0.08 percent Sikhs and 0.01 percent followers of Christianity. This shows that highest incidence of poverty is among the Muslims and lowest is among the Christians.
- The total BPL population when compared with the corresponding religion- wise population exhibited the dispersion of faith with 24.51 percent in case of Islam, 18.14 percent in case of Hinduism, 24.50 percent in case of Buddhism, 7.51 percent in case of Sikhism and only 3.12 percent in case of Christianity .
- The literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir State (both Rural and Urban) for BPL Population was 42.15 percent showing a dispersion of 48.55 percent for males and 35.30 for females. In Rural areas of the J&K State, as per the Survey, the literacy rate of BPL stood at 41.28 percent with the dispersion of 47.81 percent for males and 34.27 percent for females while as in Urban areas of the J&K State, the literacy rate stood at 52.30 percent with the dispersion of 57.32 percent for males and 47.08 percent for females.
- It is quite evident from the analysis of the data that there is much more illiteracy among women in all the divisions of the State. The gap is almost uniform in Jammu region as well as (13 percent each) in Kashmir division. It is also explicit from the analysis of data that the population Below Poverty Line has more illiterates than the general population of the State and the reasons thereof could be multidimensional. The study has revealed that there is direct relationship between illiteracy and incidence of poverty.

Rank wise BPL Population Percentage



Among the Districts Reasi is the poorest with poverty percentage of 37.93% and District has got the lowest poverty of 6.51%.

- ✓ A large number of poverty alleviation programmes viz Sampoorn Grameen Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorn Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in rural areas and Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) etc. in urban areas are being undertaken in the State to combat poverty and unemployment which shall continue to be implemented in the 11th Five Year Plan.
- ✓ Under IAY, 9939 houses were completed during 2006-07 by spending an amount of Rs.23.81 crore. The proposed target for construction of houses to be undertaken during 11th Five Year Plan under IAY/RHS is 60415.
- ✓ To promote integrated City Development and to enable the people in slums to have access to basic services, a number of schemes and programmes have been initiated by the Government. The schemes initiated under Urban Poverty Alleviation are Swarn Jayanti Shehri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), VAMBAY, Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) etc. The Scheme SJSRY has two components i.e. Urban Wage Employment Programme and Urban Self Employment Programme.
- ✓ JNNURM has also two components i.e. basic services to the Urban Poor Programme and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme. Both Jammu and Srinagar Capital Cities have been selected as Mission Cities under JNNURM.

Unemployment

With population and number of educated increasing in the state, the avenues of employment generation have not increased proportionately. High incidence of unemployment among the youth and the educated has emerged as an area of concern in the State.

The data on employment and unemployment generated from the latest round of NSS surveys - 61st round, covering the period July 2004 to June 2005, has revealed the incidence of unemployment among youth and educated at the national level and for the state as follows:

Problem of employment among the Educated and Youth on Usual Principal Status

	1993-94		1999-2000		2004-05	
	Educated#	Youth*	Educated#	Youth*	Educated#	Youth*
R u r a l						
Male	4.0	3.5	9.0	7.5	7.1	6.2
Female	13.6	4.2	22.3	11.7	20.2	8.9
Person	5.0	3.7	10.0	7.9	8.3	6.8
U r b a n						
Male	6.5	18.7	6.9	15.6	6.2	11.2
Female	21.6	33.6	19.4	27.6	31.6	31.8
Person	8.8	21.9	8.2	17.1	9.0	14.7
Source : NSS Survey-61st round						
# Educated: persons who have attained an educational level of secondary and above including those completed diploma/certificate courses. Normally, one can attain this educational level at the age of 15 years or above. Thus, the data given for education is restricted to persons of age between 15 years and above.						
* Youth: persons aged between 15-29 years.						

The above table reveals that there has been slight deterioration in the employment situation in the state from the year 1999-2000 to 2004-05 as the unemployment rate among educated in the state increased from 8.2 to 9.0. However, the unemployment rate among the Youth has shown improved from 17.1 in 1999-2000 to 14.7 in 2004-05.

According to 2001 census, the number of total workers stands at 37.54 lakhs of which the main workers constitute 26.09 lakhs or 69.49% and the number of marginal workers constitutes 11.45 lakhs or 30.51%. The share of main & marginal workers in the total work force has remained nearly constant during the last two census years. However, it may be mentioned that near about 70% of the said marginal workers are associated with the Agricultural sector contributing very marginally to the total production giving rise to the disguised unemployment in Agriculture. To avoid this situation out of the said 11.45 lakh of marginal workers 50% may be safely shifted to the other sectors of economy without affecting the total agricultural production of the State.

10. The People

JAMMU

Dogras

Jammu province is inhabited by diverse castes and sects. The Dogras inhabiting the hilly tract bounding the mountains of the Kashmir valley on the south and extending to the plains of the Punjab are descended from Aryan stock. They speak the Dogri language - a mixture of Sanskrit, Punjabi and Persian - whose origin goes back to the Indo-Aryan branch of Sanskrit. Their staple food consists of rice, wheat, and pulses. Their dress is simple, a short coat or a flowing shirt with pyjamas at the knees and tight-fitting at the ankles. The men's turban on the head is generally complemented by a kamarband at the waist. With a shawl or dupatta thrown over the head, women put on tight-fitting bodice or jumpers over pyjamas which resemble those of the men folk.

The Dogra Rajputs, who have traditionally made the Army their profession are not big build, their average height being 5'4" (160 cm). The men's complexion is light brown, the women's lighter still.

The dishes are delicious, with abundant nutritional value. One of the dainties of Dogra dishes is auria, made from yoghurt and potatoes. Other Dogra specialties are ghiwar, a sort of bread fried in ghee; thothru, well-kneaded fermented balls cooked in dried wheat flour pieces, also fried in ghee.

Distinct and remarkable, Dogra cuisine complements the people's achievements as soldiers, painters and builders of temples and forts. Through the Basohli school and other paintings, Dogras have made a notable contribution to the development of painting in India. Basohli emerged as a great centre of painting early in the 18th century. Outstanding paintings of this school depict Krishna's frolics, scenes from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata etc. Basohli paintings have been characterised as 'poems in colour' for their extraordinary lyrical quality.

The Dogras are deeply attached to their land. Much of their folklore - myths and legends - relates to their shrines. Religion also contributes to the mass entertainment of the people in the form of Ras dances.

Others

The Brahmins of the Jammu province are mainly engaged in agriculture. A minority among them comprise the priest class. The Chibbalis and the Sudans - the chief sects among the Muslim Rajputs - are also a martial race.

Khatris and Mahajans are of Punjab stock. They generally follow sedentary occupation like trade and commerce. Harijans constitute another large segment of population. They are agriculturists and pursue semi-skilled professions, including those of cobblers and scavengers.

Strong muscled, virile, simple and truthful, the Paharis inhabit the hilly tracts of the 'middle mountains'. Theirs is a hard life, rearing sheep and cultivating the sparse available tracts of land on hilly, sloppy terraces for barley, wheat and maize. Many people of this area recruits to the Army. Their hospitality is exemplary. Their diet is simple and sparse - wheat bread with whey and lentils. Their language is a mixture of Dogri, Punjabi and Hindi. Generally dressed in grey woolens and loose pyjamas, they also flaunt a kamarband. Women wear long, loose tunics, close fitting chudidars and dupatta or cap to complete their charming ensemble. The Kashmiris

who have immigrated into this region have adopted the same dress and speak a mixture of Pahari and Kashmiri dialects.

The physical features of a Kishtwari are unmistakably those of an Indian-dark complexion, thick protruding lips and broad noses, akin to Dravidians. They are of short stature, simple and unsophisticated but are very hardy. They are surefooted mountaineers. Guileless and credulous, they are superstitious. Witchcraft prevails among some of them. The people speak the Kishtwari dialect, which is a mixture of Dogri and Kashmiri.

KASHMIRIS

According to historians, the ancestors of Kashmiris are early immigrants from India proper. With the spread of Buddhism, many scholars came to Kashmir from far-off lands for research and study. This resulted in the emergence of Buddhism. The contact of Kashmiris with the Roman, Greek and Persian civilizations and the interaction, made for a happy blending of cultures. Most of the people claim their descent from the Indo-Aryan stock. Actually, Kashmir is inhabited by diverse and different races, distinct in their looks, dress, food habits, customs, speech and traditions.

The Kashmiris made remarkable contributions to story-telling, mystical poetry, the Shaiva philosophy, grammar and the sciences. Folk-songs and dances as well as the various arts and crafts, for which Kashmir is world famous, bear eloquent testimony to the artistic and cultural genius of the people of Kashmir.



Most of the people in the valley are fair-complexioned, with light brown hair, blue or grey eyes, chiseled features and fine physique. There are also people with a whitish complexion, black almond eyes and black hair. Kashmiris tend to be superstitious.

The Kashmiris, on the whole are non-aggressive and temperate in nature and very God-fearing. They have been regarded as non-martial in character.

They can be singled out as extremely warm, friendly, and hospitable. The Kashmiri Pandit's life and habits are simple and frugal, he tends to be individualistic and largely intellectual. Traditionally, he avoids doing manual labour and has clung to professional and administrative jobs. In bygone days, he used to be reluctant to go away from his homeland but now he has changed completely. Kashmiri Muslim on the other hand, is generally more active, energetic and dynamic. He is an unrivalled craftsman, deftly producing time-honoured designs - intricate and beautiful- on papier-mache, wood, silver and gold and embroiders and weaves the most exquisite shawls, carpets and rugs. He is an excellent cultivator, rears sheep and cattle and is self-employed in cottage industries. He is also a shrewd businessman.

RELIGION

Ninety percent of the population in the valley profess Islam of both Sunni and Shia sects. The rest are Kashmiri pandits. There are some Sikhs. The Kashmiri pandits do not have castes like Hindus in the rest of India.

FOOD

Rice is the staple food of the Kashmiris and meat cooked in delicious varieties, goes with it. Kashmiris pride over Karam Sag (a kind of leafy green vegetable), nadru

(lotus stalk) and turnips. Wherever a Kashmiri goes, he carries these precious vegetables as token presents. Kashmiris are known for their culinary art or more accurately, the cooking of lamb dishes in various ways, each distinct in taste from the other. The tea that the Kashmiris drink is called Kahva - a concoction of green tea leaves brewed in the samovar and enriched with pounded almonds, cardamom seeds, and cinnamon stalks overdosed with sugar and served without milk. The other kind of commonly used tea is Shirchai-salted and milked, pink in colour, with lots of cream I on top of it.

DRESS

Kashmiri Muslims used to wear the pheran, a long loose gown hanging down below the knees, a white turban tied on a skull cap, a close-fitting shalwar and lace less shoes called gurgabi. A white piece of material is hung on their shoulders like a stole. Hindu men wear churidar pyjama instead of shalwar. The less affluent Muslims wear skull caps, which looks cute and does not carry any shawl.

Kashmiri women are among the most beautiful in India. They have "an English rosiness of complexion behind the Eastern tan". The colour of their hair ranges from golden red to brunette and that of eyes from green, blue, grey to black. Besides being boats-women and farmers, the women of Kashmir lend a hand to their men-folk at shawl making, embroidery and other handicrafts.

The women wear the pheran, the voluminous Kashmiri gown, hemmed with a border and hanging in awkward folds. The long, loose pheran covers their physique no doubt, but does not blunt their physical appeal. Whereas a Muslim woman's pheran is knee-length, loose and embroidered in front and on the edges, a Hindu woman's pheran touches her feet. For the sake of smartness and ease it is tied at the waist with folded material called Ihungi. The long loose sleeves are fashionably decorated with brocade. With this type of Hindu costume goes the head-dress called taranga, which is tied to a hanging bonnet and tapers down to the heels from behind. The folds of the taranga are made of brightly-pressed lines fastened to a pointed red-coloured and brocaded skull cap with a few gold pins at the sides. Over the head and ears are pieces of muslin embroidered in gold thread. The younger Hindu women, however have taken to the sari, after the 'reform movement' of the thirties. Even then, on the wedding day they have to wear the taranga ceremonially. It is covered with the palav of the bride's wedding sari. Taranga, thus stays as part of the bridal trousseau.

Unlike a Hindu woman's pheran, which gives her a Roman look, the Muslim woman's pheran is beautifully embroidered in front. Their head gear, the Kasaba, looks very different from the taranga. It is red in colour, tied turban-like and held tight by an abundance of silver pins and trinkets. It has an overhanging pin-scarf which falls grace fully over the shoulders. A work-a-day shalwar goes with it. Unmarried Muslim girls wear skullcaps, embroidered with gold thread and embellished with silver pendants, trinkets and amulets.

With the passage of years, an appreciable change has come about in the dress of the Kashmiri women. Saris, shalwar-kameez, churidars and jeans are becoming popular; yet none of these belong to them as much as the good old pheran.

ORNAMENTS

Kashmiri women generally have such love of jewellery that their headgear, ears, necks and arms glisten with ornaments. The typical ornament that Hindu women wear is the dejharoo, a pair of gold pendants, hanging on a silk thread or gold chain which passes through holes in the ears pieced at the top end of the lobes. The

dejharoo is the Kashmiri panditani's mangal-sutra. Muslim women wear bunches of ear rings, the weight of which is supported by a thick silver chain. And there are ample bracelets and necklaces. The whole ensemble lends a most artistic effect to the appearance of Kashmiri women.

LADAKHIS

The people of Ladakh region have Mongoloid or more accurately Turanian features. People of this region have a cheerful disposition and are peace-loving. According to the 1971 census, the population of Ladakh was estimated at 105,000. Fifty five percent of the Ladakhis are Buddhist by faith and the rest are Muslims.

Ladakh is known as the 'land of the Lamas' and the Buddhist of Ladakh prefer to call their religion Lamaism - which is much the same as Mahayana (or Great vehicle) form of Buddhism. Religion pervades the life of Ladakhis and dominates their life-style. The people of Ladakh have a system of dedicating at least one person from each family to priesthood, i.e. to be a Lama. The female monk is called Chomo. The Dalai Lama of Tibet is to them the chief spiritual head.



Ladakhis call themselves 'Bo-pa' i.e. ancient Bhauttas. They speak a Tibetan language which is a dialect of Tibetan. It is written in the Tibetan script. Many words in the Ladakhi language, especially in religious terminology are derived from Sanskrit.

Ladakhis are sincere and honest. About 90 percent of them depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Barley, wheat, buck-wheat, peas, rapeseed and beans are the main agricultural products. Apples and apricots are grown in warmer regions of low altitude.

Another occupation of the Ladakhis is sheep-rearing. The herdsmen are called Chang-pas. They rear long-haired goats and sheep from whose under-fleece the famous Kashmiri Pashmina shawls are made. Chang-pas live in tents and are nomadic, going from place to place in search of pastures.

Ladakhis are keenly interested in trade. Wool, in raw form is their chief commercial product. The men travel long distances, seeking favourable prices for their wares, which consist of salt, dry fruits and cultured pearls and semi-precious stones. In return they get tea, tobacco, grain, sugar and other essential goods.

Ladakhi men wear long, grey, woolen gowns fringed with sheep-skin and tied at the waist with girdles of blue colour, multi-coloured velvet caps, fringed with black fur earlaps. Their women wear colourful clothes. Their special turquoise-studded headgear called Perak, is made of red cloth or goat skin and hangs up to the forehead and tapers down to the waist at the back. Brooches of turquoise and other semiprecious stones embellish their headgear, bangles and ear ornaments.

The staple food of the Ladakhis is 'grim' - a kind of barely grown abundantly even at high altitudes - which is eaten as bread or mixed with butter and tea as a paste. They are invariably meat-eaters. A local drink called Chang is consumed in ample quantities at festive occasions and reception following marriages and births.

Polyandry used to be a common feature among the Ladakhis. The elder brother's wife was the wife of all brothers. This system was mainly with an aim to keep the population steady and patrimonial property undivided. This system has been discarded by the young Ladakhis, but there is no law yet against polygamy.

Playing polo on fast-racing ponies is the most popular entertainment in Ladakh. The horse is not changed with each Chukkar (Chukka) as in western style polo but each

player carries on with the same study pony. Primitive wooden balls are still used for the game played on rough, uneven pitch whose popularity persists in Ladakh.

Ladakh offers the hunters exotic hunts of markhor, ibex, red bear, snow leopard, wild sheep, antelope, gazelle and marmot. Ladakh is also rich in minerals like gold, copper and semi-precious stones.

There is a system of medicine known as Amchi system of medicine which is based on Ayurveda. Amchis, as the Ladaki doctors are known, have been handing down their medical knowledge from father to son down the years. Recently, however, an Amchi college has been started in Ladakh for training and certification of Amchis. It is a well developed system of medicine which treats the individual as a whole and remedies include mostly herbal extracts from plants which grow in the high altitude region of Ladakh. Some minerals and animal products are also used as remedies which treat a whole spectrum of physical and mental problems. The Indian Army has taken up a unique project to examine the usefulness of the Amchi system of medicine found in Ladakh.

GUJJARS

The hill people of Kashmir, called Gujjars, mostly herdsmen by occupation, are found in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir. They are said to be Rajputs who had migrated from Rajasthan and adopted the Muslim faith. They are tall and wellbuilt, with a prominently Jewish cast of features. Their dialect, Gujari is now identified as a form of a Rajasthani. They raise sheep and cattle. Their nutritious diet consists of maize bread, whey, jungle roots and fruits.

The dress of a Gujjar woman of the hills in the valley is very much similar to that worn by the Turkish village women. It consists of an ample shalwar and full-skirted tunic with loose sleeves. A thick veil on the head falls back to the shoulders. The Gujjar woman knits their hair in multiple plaits which hang in front, covering half of their moon-shaped faces.

Bakerwallas are just like cousins of Gujjars but are nomads and they live their nomadic life very happily. They usually move from southern plains to northern mountains during spring and from North to south during autumn in search of green pastures for raising their sheep and goats. They carry their belongings with them while moving from one place to other.

Paharis are the linguistic minority in the state found in mountainous gentler slopes where cultivation is possible. They usually speak Pahari language which is a mixture of Punjabi, Kashmiri and Dogri.

Population by Religion

Region	Hindus	Sikhs	Muslims	Christians	Buddhists	Jains	Others	Religion not stated	Total
Kashmir	100962	48219	5321600	375	1722	501	16	193	5476970
Ladakh	14715	730	112119	409	108493	3	13	57	236539
Jammu	2889672	158205	1359521	19515	3572	2014	68	1006	4430191
Total J&K	3005349	207154	6793240	20299	113787	2518	97	1256	10143700

Source: Census 2001

11. Culture

CULTURE BACKGROUND

Jammu and Kashmir has the distinction of having multifaceted, variegated and unique cultural blend, making it distinct from the rest of the country, not only from the different cultural forms and heritage, but from geographical, demographically, ethical, social entities, forming a distinct spectrum of diversity and diversions into Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh, all professing diverse religion, language and culture, but continuously intermingling, making it vibrant specimens of Indian Unity amidst diversity. Its different cultural forms like art and architecture, fairs and festivals, rites and rituals, seers and sagas, language and mountains, embedded in ageless period of history, speak volumes of unity and diversity with unparalleled cultural cohesion and cultural service.

Iranian influence on Kashmir has been so strong that at one time Kashmir was known as Iran-e-Sagheer or little Iran. Though the Iran-Kashmir interaction dates back to pre-Islamic times, it was the arrival of the great Iranian Saint, Mir Syed Ali Hamadani, the founder of Islam in Kashmir, which had a profound impact on every sphere of life here. Kashmir remained a favoured destination for Iranians, and tombs of missionaries from Persia, dotting every nook and corner of the vale, remain sites of reverence for Kashmiris even today. From Iran came not only religion, but arts, crafts, cuisine, literature and festivals too. Nauroz, perhaps, remains the only festival rooted in Iranian culture that is still being celebrated in Kashmir, remarked Abu Fazl, a writer and journalist.

While the Kashmir has been the highest learning centre of Sanskrit and Persian where early Indo-Aryan civilization has originated and flourished, it has also been embracing point of advent of Islam bringing its fold finest traditions of Persian civilization, tolerance, brotherhood and sacrifice.

Ladakh on the other hand, has been the highest and living centre of Tantrayan Buddhism. Jammu, the same way, has been the seat of Rajas and Maharajas which have cemented and enriched the cultural, historical and social bonds of all these diverse ethnic and linguistic divisions of the state. The ancient archeological monuments and remnants speak volume of the district cultural traditions of the state.

Kashmir is rightly said to be Nature's grand finale of beauty. In this masterpiece of earth's creation seasons in strong individuality vie with one another in putting up exquisite patterns of charm and loveliness. Nature has left an indelible mark on the folk performances of Kashmir as they are intimately interlined with the moods and movements of the seasons.

Some of the popular performing traditions of J&K are as follows:

JAMMU REGION

(a) **Kud:** It is basically a ritual dance performed in honour of Lok Devas. This dance style is performed mostly during nights. It is spontaneous dance and people of all ages and sexes participate in this folk dance form. Instruments used during this dance are Narshingha, chhaina, flute, drums etc. It is the rhythm of music which controls the movement of participants. This dance continues for the whole night. Number of participants ranges from 20 to 30 members.

(b) **Heren:** It is a traditional theatre form performed during Lohri festival by 10-15 members. This style is mostly performed in hilly regions of Jammu.

(c) **Fumenie and Jagarana:** This dance style is performed by the ladies on the eve of groom's departure to in-laws house. Both the songs are sung by a group of females comprising 15-20 members. This traditional dance form depicts the feelings and emotions of women folk.

(d) **Bakh/Gwatri/Kark/Masade:** It is a chorus narrative singing sung by a group of 10 singers without the accompaniment of any musical instruments.

(e) **Gwatri:** It is a singing/ dance combined tradition in which the singers narrate some text which is enacted by the Gwatri dancers.

(f) **Karak:** It is a tale ballad singing form sung by a community called 'Jogies'. They narrate a popular folk tale in their dance style, performed by three members with accompaniment of typical folk instrument called 'Rabab'.

(g) **Benthe:** This is chorus singing tradition performed specific community of tribal called Gujjar and Bakerwal. Dance is performed by 5-7 members.

KASHMIR REGION

(a) **Bhand Pather:** It is a traditional folk theatre style combination of play and dance in a satirical style where social traditions, evils are depicted and performed in various social and cultural functions. Bhand Jashan is performed by a group of 10 to 15 artists in their traditional style accompanied by light music for the entertainment of people.

(b) **Chakri:** It is most popular form of Kashmiri folk music. It has some resemblance with chakra of mountainous regions of Uttar Pradesh. Normally Garaha, Sarangi, Rabab were the musical instruments used in the past. But now the harmonium too has made its way in its presentation.

(c) **Sufiana Music:** Sotians musiqui came to Kashmir from Iran in the 15th century. Over the years it has established itself as the classical music form of Kashmir and has incorporated a number of Indian Ragas in its body. Hafiz Nagma in fact, used to be part of sufiana music. The instruments used in this form are Santoor, Sitar, Kashmiri Saz, Wasool or Tabala. In Hafiz Nagma a dancer is a female while her accompanists on various instruments are males. Hatiza moves her feet on musical notes.

LADAKH REGION

(a) **Marriage songs and dance (wedding dance):** In Ladakh marriage is conducted with great enthusiasm and lasts for at least a couple of days. The main feature of Ladakhi marriage is recitation of long narratives. Marriage songs are sung by the marriage party led by a leader. Singers wear unique costumes especially made for the gay ceremonies.

(b) **Jabro:** This dance form is peculiar to Chang- Thang and Rong areas of Ladakh region. Both males and females face each other forming rows or circles and dance leaping hand in hand forwards and backwards reciting melodious songs.

(c) **Alley Yate:** It is basically the dance of shepherds of Zanskar area of Ladakh region. It is a combination of poetry and dance. This dance is peculiar to the time when people go out of their homes with flocks.

OTHER POPULAR PERFORMING TRADITIONS OF J&K

Rouf: This dance is almost steeped in antiquity. Rouf is always performed in the accompaniment of pleasant pathetic song. It is performed on all festive occasions and particularly on the evenings of Ramzan and 100 days. Group of women face each other and perform simple footwork which has a sensuous charm about it.

Hafiz Nagma: Hafiz Nagma is based on the classical music of Kashmir- the Sofiyana Kalam. The Sutyana Kalam has its own ragas known as Muquam. The prominent instrument used in Hafiz Nagma is called Santoor-a hundred stringed instrument played with sticks. The danseuse in this tradition is known as 'Hafiza' Song of Habba Khatoon. Habba Khatoon was the renowned princess poet of Kashmir. Her feelings during her separation from the Yousuf King is depicted in this song. The song is based on the folk renderings of Kashmiri Music.

Jagarna: This marriage song cum-dance form has the elements of theatre. While the menfolk of the bridegroom's house have gone with the Barat, women folk are left alone in the house. The bridegroom's mother, aunts, grandmother and other relations indulge in gossips revelations of their marital life and the behaviour of their husbands. But sometimes, in right earnest, they reveal some intimate incidents and spend the night in the atmosphere which is un-interrupted by menfolk in its flow of unending gossip and the movement of frolicking feet.

Surma: This song in Dogri, set to dance reveals the anguish of a newly married girl whose husband is away in the Army. The ever increasing yearning of re-union is depicted through this song-dance.

Bakhall: This folk song is a widely prevalent form of mass entertainment in our region. The haunting Melody of Pahari songs add to the beauty and joy of daily life. There are certain songs which are independent of Instruments. "Bakhan" is such a best example. "Bakhan" are in verse. The metre is Irregular and is determined by modulation in tone. The movement of hand indicates the variations in the note. This is the only form of lyric in Dogri which resembles the Western harmony of sounds without losing its individual note and rhythm.

Geetru: A dance-song of Dogra Pahari region of Jammu being performed at the occasion of feasts, festivals and marriages by the rural folk parties of this region. Male and female both participate in this dance song in their traditional costumes. This type of dance song is performed at any time of the day as well as night.

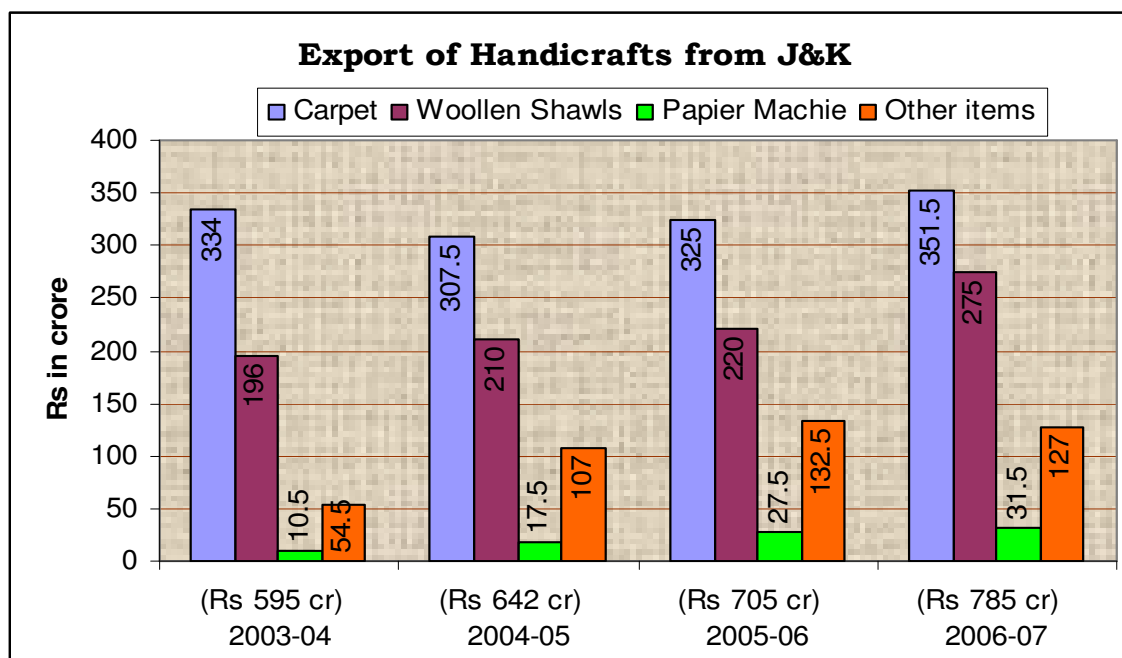
LANGUAGES & DIALECTS

People of J&K speak many languages like Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahari, Ladakhi, Balti, Punjabi, Gujri and Dadri. Although Urdu is the official language of the state, yet the official communications are generally made in English. Urdu and Hidi are spoken by all sections of the society.

At the University level also languages viz, Kashmiri and Dogri are taught as subjects for Post Graduation courses like M.A in Kashmiri, M.A in Dogri or Post Graduate Diploma in Kishmiri or Dogri.

12. Crafts

Kashmir is known throughout the world as much for its arts and crafts as for its scenic beauty and bracing climate. The diverse articles range from woollen textiles of fleecy soft texture and matchless excellence in weaving, hand-woven carpets of finest warp and weft, to the exquisite designs worked on papier-mache, wood work silverware, etc is the products of unique craftsmanship.



SHAWLS

A unique position among Kashmir textiles is held by the celebrated shawl. The process of shawl-making is fascinating from the start. Assiduously, women sort out of the lustrous, rough substance from the smooth fleecy wool of the Kel goat, and they ply it over a charkha (hand loom) of the indigenous type, while chanting folk-songs. This fabric, called pashmina, takes two forms of the loom: the loom shawl (entirely woven on the loom) and the embroidered shawl, which is woven with an embroidered pattern. The celebrated 'ring shawl' has been given in the popular name, because it can actually pass through a ring. Rare and different from the others is the Jamavar shawl. In this case, the threads of the warp and weft are dyed before weaving. The peculiar charm of this famous shawl is derived from the symphony of colour schemes depicting architectural and mythological figures interwoven with landscape designs.

A high-class shawl is expected to have the designs worked evenly on both sides. The price of a pashmina shawl may range anywhere from a few hundred rupees to thousands of rupees, depending upon the craftsmanship and the time factor involved in its creation.

CARPETS

The namda, felt rug, made from beaten wool, which is then embroidered over, is an important branch of the kasida industry of Kashmir.

The gabba- a unique type of floor covering, prepared from old woolens in a variety of forms and designs- come next to the namda industry, and its manufacture is localised at Anantnag (Islamabad). Baramulla specialises in printed gabbas.

The chain-stitch rug, which resembles the gabba carpet, is also manufactured economically, as the base is Hessian cloth and coarse wool, over which floral and other motifs are worked.

The carpet industry, introduced into the Valley by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, justly renowned. From the point of weaving, carpets are broadly divided into two classes: smooth-faced carpets and pile carpets. Pile carpets (Kalins), made in Kashmir since the Muslim rule, and attained great perfection. Worked with floral and other designs, the hand-woven pile carpet became the national craft of Kashmir.

The flora and fauna of different lands-Kashmir, Central Asia and Iran are depicted on the carpets of Kashmir in a harmony symbolic of traditional synthesis of Kashmir's diverse cults and cultures.

EMBROIDERY

The embroidery of Kashmir, called kasida, is world-famous. Varied, rich in colour elaborate in detail and exquisite in execution, the kasida patterns are freely drawn by the naqqash mostly from memory. The finest kasida work, particularly embroidered on shawls or saris, has no 'wrong' side.

The chain-stitch is also used for the making of a large number of miscellaneous articles such as bags, screens and cushion covers.

PAPER MACHIE

Paper Machie is form of miniature painting and is another hit with aesthetes. It was popularised during the reign of Zainul- Abideen "Bad Shah".

SILVER AND COPPERWARE

Both plain and engraved work is executed to cater to the differing tastes of buyers, which include many American tourists. The range of silverware is indeed wide: silver tea-sets, flower vases, toilet sets, scent chests, ornamental picture-frames, cigarette-cases, tumblers, etc. Among the flora and fauna, leaves of the chinar and the lotus furnish the popular patterns. Designs of the lilac, a popular flower of the Valley, are also wrought in silver.

There is a good demand for lovely copper trays inlet into tables of carved walnuFwood, the carpenter working in cooperation with the deft coppersmith. Enameled silver work is also pretty Papier-mache craft, peculiar to Kashmir, was also introduced into the Valley by the great monarch, Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, who has been aptly called the Akbar of Kashmir. The products, beautifully painted over with ornamental patterns, comprise picture-frames, pen-cases, screens (which can view with the Chinese counterparts), tables, tea-pots, writing sets, candle-sticks, handkerchief and tie boxes, vases, stamp boxes and other utility goods whose need is now fairly widespread. Green fields sloping towards the snow-capped mountains, sparkling streams running over rounded rocks, shikaras and lotuses blooming on the lakes, are the favourite papierll1ache patterns. The craftsmen have introduced brass and metal-lining for the new style of papier-mache goods which makes them more durable and useful.

WOOD CARVING

Walnut and chinar wood, abundant in Kashmir, provides material for the wood

carving, which is among the best known cottage industries of Kashmir.

To make excellent furniture and toilet articles such as chairs, cabinets, writing or dining tables, jewellery boxes and ornamental caskets, which are greatly appreciated. Some of the walnut wood products- cigar boxes and trays, table-tops, handkerchief and collar boxes are delicately carved. Floral designs of almost every, conceivable varieties are made with great accuracy of detail in chased or raise work,

KHATAM-BAND

Khatam-band is a speciality in Kashmir woodwork and comprises ceilings of rooms, made from thin panels of pine wood, cut into geometrical designs. Builders of houseboats have kept this old craft alive.

In Kashmir the shrine of Khwaja Naqshband, near the lama Masjid of Srinagar, presents the best example of this craft.

The Kashmiri carpentry and wicker-work industries are notable. The boats (float bottomed mostly) that the carpenter makes are of many sizes, and include the famous house-boats, the favourite residence of summer visitors. In wicker-work, Lunch and flower baskets, chairs and tables and various other articles of common use are turned out in elegant designs.

KANGRI

The Kashmiri chafing vessel, its earthen bowl encased in wickerwork, is also made as an artefact ornamented with wicker rings and coloured mica for the mantelpiece. This fire pot is the main source of heat during harsh & cold winter in the valley. It is usually taken under the Pheran (long woollen coat) so as to keep the body warm and the coal fire placed in the Kangri lasts long under it. The traditional Kangri of Chari Shrief is very famous throughout the valley for its design and durability.



SAMOVAR

Samovar is product of copper-ware used for serving hot tea found in almost all the corners of the Valley. It consists of small fire cylinder in the middle of the body where the fire coal is put. The burning coal is placed inside the fire cylinder of the samovar for keeping the tea or kahwa hot. Beautiful plain and engraved work is done outside the body of the Samovar as per the tastes of the people.

The Kashmiri artisan also produces excellent products of copper-ware consisting mostly of cooking pots especially samovars (tea-kettle of Russian origin) and sundry articles for the household or the mantelpiece.



Apart from other Crafts in the State, Ladakh is also famous for its Buddhist painting art.



Border Embroidery of Shawl

Kokernag “Anantnag”

13. Cuisine

KASHMIRI DISHES

Kashmiri cuisine, comprising mostly of non-vegetarian dishes, is characterized by three different styles of cooking - the Kashmiri Pandit, the Muslims and the Rajput styles. Traditional Kashmiri cooking is called 'Wazhawan' and is rich and aromatic with a wonderful flavour. Rice is the staple food and lamb, goat's meat and chicken form the basis of many famous dishes. Spices and condiments play a very important role in the Kashmiri delights. Asafoetida, aniseed, dry garlic, cloves and cinnamon are added for extra flavoring. Kashmiri Hindus use fenugreek, ginger and aniseed in their food, while Muslims use garlic, Kashmiri chillies, cloves and cinnamon. One of the distinct features of Kashmiri cuisine is the generous use of curds in the gravies, giving the dishes a creamy consistency. Some known dishes of Kashmir are yakhni, tabaq naat, dum aloo, rogan josh and gaustaba. The dishes are cooked in mustard oil and water, with the addition of red and green chillies.

Dum Aloo
Gaushtaba (Meat balls in Curd)
Haak (Kashmiri Spinach)
Kababa (Fried Mutton Chops)
Pulao
Ranith Gada (Fish Curry)
Roath (Kashmiri dry fruit Cake)
Rogan Josh
Tabak Maaz (Lamb Ribs)
Yakhni (Kashmiri Mutton Curry)

WAZWAN

Wazwan, a famous Kashmiri Cuisine through out the world is a combination of more than 30 varieties of meat and is served in marriage ceremonies.

BAKERY

The famous kashmiri bakery items include "Kulcha", "Sheer Maal", "Bakir Khani" , "Girda" , "Kripa" and "Tail Woru" and are usually taken with the tasty kashmiri "Noon chai (Salty Tea)" and "Kahwa (Sweet Black tea)"



Miniature painting done on Shingar boxes

14. Universities & Colleges

Jammu & Kashmir is the only state where education is free up to university stage. Yet the state is educationally backward. Against the national literacy rate of 65.38% the state has a literacy figure of 54.46% literacy among male is 65.75% and that of female is 41.82% (2001 census).

On the technical education side, there is one National Institute of Technology (NIT) Deemed University at Srinagar and one engineering college at Jammu in the state, in addition to this there are about 9 polytechnics to impart vocational trainings.

The state has made considerable progress in the field of medical education. There are two medical colleges under the University of Kashmir at Srinagar and two under the University of Jammu at Jammu. A fullfledged medical institute, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences is functioning at Bemina Srinagar. The institute has more than 600 bed complement and provides facilities for post graduate medical education and medical research.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) Shalimar was established in 1982 with the jurisdiction over whole state of J&K. Later on establishment of SKUAST of Jammu in 1999 reduced the jurisdiction of parent University to valley and Ladakh and were rechristened as SKUAS-K and SKUAST-J. SKUAST-K endeavours to develop human resource and infuse science & technology in various sectors of agriculture. Research activities of the university are carried out in various subject matter divisions for PG level programme in Agriculture and forestry at main campus Shalimar, Veterinary Sciences and Fishery Sciences at Shuhama and Sericulture at Mir Gund, faculty of Agriculture Wadoora for UG level programme.

The university of Jammu & Kashmir was founded in 1948. In 1969, as a result of the rapidly increasing demand for higher education in the state, it was bifurcated into the University of Jammu and University of Kashmir. With the setting up of three more universities namely, *Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (Rajouri)*, *Islamic University of Science and Technology (Awantipora) Kashmir*, *Mata Vaishno Devi University (Katra)*, the number of Universities in the State rose to eight. These universities provide education in wide range of courses of Graduation and Post Graduation level. Besides, four mini campuses of the University of Kashmir and the University of Jammu are being set up with the financial assistance of UGC. These campuses are located at Baramulla (North Campus) and Anantnag (South Campus) under University of Kashmir and Bhandarwah and Kathua under University of Jammu. Two additional mini campuses in Poonch and Udhampur have also been sanctioned.

In the state of J&K 22 new Degree Colleges have lately been setup, thereby raising total number of colleges to 54 managed by the government under University of Jammu & University of Kashmir respectively. The constituent & affiliated colleges of Jammu University & Kashmir University are listed below.

Colleges of Jammu Division (Govt. Managed)

1. Govt. Women College Parade Ground, Jammu.
2. Govt. Women College Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.
3. Govt. SPMR, College Jewel Canal Road, Jammu.
4. GGM, Science College Jammu.
5. Govt. MAM, College, Jammu.
6. Govt. Degree College, R.S. Pura

7. Govt. Degree College, Akhnoor
8. Govt. Degree College, Samba
9. Govt. Degree College, (Boys) Udhampur
10. Govt. Degree College, Udhampur
11. Govt. Degree College, Kathua
12. Govt. Degree College, Doda
13. Govt. Degree College, Ramban
14. Govt. Degree College, Poonch
15. Govt. Degree College, Rajouri
16. Govt. Degree College, Kishtwar
17. Govt. Degree College, Bhaderwah
18. Govt. Degree College, Reasi
19. Govt. College of Education, Canal Road Jammu.

I Constituent Colleges (Professional Institutions)

Govt. Managed in Jammu Division

1. Govt. Medical College, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.
2. Indira Gandhi, Govt. Dental College, Ambphalla, Jammu.
3. Govt. College of Education, Jammu.
4. Institute of Music & Fine Arts, Poonch House Talab Tillo, Jammu.

II Professional Colleges (Privately Managed) in Jammu Division

1. MIET, College Engineering, Kot-Bhalwal, Jammu.
2. Dogra Law College, Bari-Brahman, Jammu.

List of Colleges of Kashmir Division (Govt. Managed)

1. Degree College Bemina, Srinagar.
2. SP College, Srinagar.
3. Women College, Srinagar.
4. Amar Singh College, Srinagar.
5. Islamia College, Srinagar.
6. Women College Nowakadal, Srinagar.
7. Degree College Ganderbal, Srinagar.
8. Degree (Boys) College, Anantnag.
9. Degree (Girls) College, Anantnag.
10. Degree College, Baramulla
11. Degree College, Sopore
12. Degree College, Pulwama
13. Degree College, Handwara
14. Degree College, Kupwara
15. JET College of Education Kanshipora, Baramulla
16. Degree College Palampora, Baramulla
17. Degree College Uri, Baramulla
18. Boy Degree College, Baramulla
19. Women College, Baramulla
20. JBW, College of Education, Baramulla
21. Govt. Law College, Sopore, Baramulla.
22. Degree College, Shopian, Kashmir.
23. Degree College, Tral, Pulwama, Kashmir

I Constituent Colleges (Professional Institutions)

Govt. Managed in Kashmir Division

1. Sher-e-Kashmir, Institute of Medical Science, (SKIMS) Soura, Srinagar.

2. Govt. Medical College, Srinagar.
3. Govt. Dental College, Srinagar.
4. Govt. College of Education, Srinagar
5. Institute of Music & Fine Arts, Srinagar.
6. Govt. College of Physical Education, Ganderbal, Srinagar.

II Professional Colleges, (Privately Managed) in Kashmir Division

1. CASET, Institute of Computer Science, Srinagar.
2. SSM, College of Engineering, Baramulla.
3. Sopore Law College, Sopore, Kashmir.
4. Kashmir Law College, Nowshera, Srinagar.
5. Institute of Asian Medical Science Unani, Zakura, Srinagar.
6. Bibi Haleema Nursing College, Srinagar.
7. Kashmir Tibbiya College, Saida Kadal, Srinagar.
8. Kausar college of Computer Science, Nowshera, Srinagar.
9. SEM, College of Computer Science, Humhama, Budgam.
10. Max – Well College of Computer Science, Pulwama.
11. Iqbal Institute of Technology & Management, Budgam.

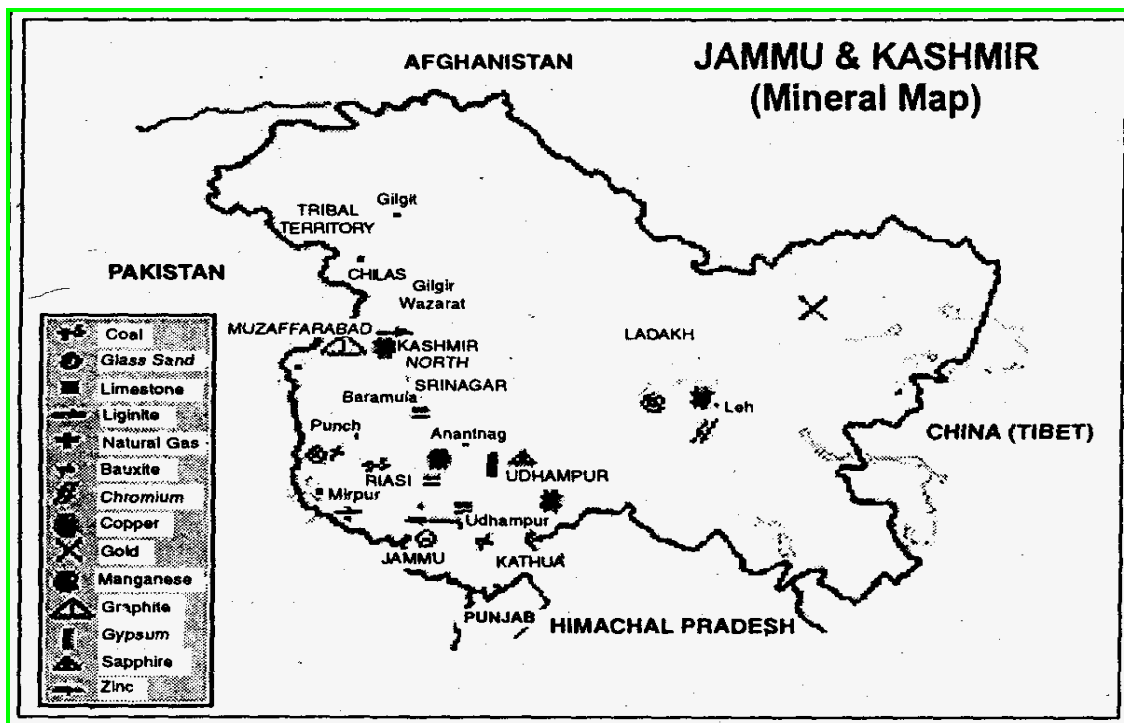
III Oriental Colleges in Kashmir Division

1. Madinatul – Aloom, Hazratbal, Srinagar.
2. Anjuman Nusrat-ul-islam, Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar.
3. Darul – Aloom Hanfia Arabia College, Noor Bagh, Srinagar.
4. Govt. Oriental College, Baghi – Dilawar Khan, Srinagar.
5. Islamic Oriental College, Tral, Kashmir.
6. Anjuman Shariya Shiyani, Budgam, Kashmir.
7. Kamla Nehru Memorial, Mahavidyala, Srinagar.
8. Yamiya – Tul – Banaat, Umer Colony Lal Bazar, Srinagar (temporary affiliation).



Migratory Bird "Hukarsar Wet Land"

15. Minerals



COAL

(i) Occurrence: The coal is extracted from Kalakot coal fields which extends from Jangalgali in the east to Jigni in the West, falling in Districts of Udhampur and Rajouri and lies between latitude 30°- 15' to 33°- 15' and Longitude 74°- 20' to 75°- 10'

This coal which is semi anthracitic in rank occurs as black in form though about 10% of the production is in the form of Steam coal. The coal is of generally of high heat value.

(ii) Uses: This coal is used in

- Manufacture of cement using V.S.K. Technology.
- Brick Kiln Industry.
- Steam coal is used in Industries using boilers.
- In manufacture of battery covers.

GYPSUM

(i) Occurrence: The Gypsum deposits occur in Buniyar in District Baramulla and in areas of Ramban and Assar in District Doda of J&K State. J&K Minerals Limited is actively mining Gypsum from Assar Gypsum mine which is situated at 30 K.M. from Batote on N.H-18 and is envisaging exploiting huge gypsum reserves from Parianka area in Ramban. The Gypsum so mined is of purity of 97% and is in form of lumps.

(ii) Uses: Gypsum is used in.

- (a) Making of plaster of Paris.
- (b) Manufacture of cement.
- (c) Manufacture of Gypsum Boards.
- (d) Land Reconditioning
- (e) Pharmaceutical Industry
- (f) Black Board Chalk
- (g) Ceramics Industry for Pottery Moulds.

SAPPHIRE

(i) Occurrence: The Sapphire occurs in Paddar area in Distt. Doda, J&K State, which lies between longitude of 76 Deg.- 15 Deg. and 76 Deg. -30 Deg. at a height of 4500 m above N.S.L.

(ii) Quality: The Sapphire of paddar is deep bluish in colour and is world renowned Gem-stone for its clarity and transparency.

Uses: Mainly used in Jewellery and has a high ornamental value.

MAGNETITE

(i) Occurrence: The Chipprian MagneTite deposit is located 3 KM away from Panthai village in Udampur Distt. J&K State. Panthal village is situated 15 KM from Tikri (NH-IA) on Tikri-Katra Route. The deposits are located in rugged, hilly topography at an altitude of 1481 Mts. SML.

This deposit is worked in a Joint venture between M/s JKML and JK Minerals Development Corporation. The Magnetite is of high grade and it is proposed to feed the magnetite are after crushing to proper size Rotary kilns fro Obtaining dead burnt magnetite.

(ii) Uses:

(a) The dead burnt Magnetite is used in manufacture of Refractory Bricks.

(b) Magnetite is used in Medicines and Cosmetics.

LIME STONE

(i) Occurrence: High grade lime-stone both cement grade and chemical grade occur in abundance in Distt. of Anantnag, Puiwama and Baramulla Distt of J&K State.

J&K minerals are exploiting cement grade lime stone at Khrew in Distt. Pulwama.

(ii) Uses: The Lime stone is used in manufacturer of cement and lime.

LIGNITE

(i) Occurrence: The lignite deposits occur in Nichohama 50 KM from Srinagar in Distt. Kupwara, J&K. The detailed exploration has been carried out by GSI and Mineral exploration Corporation Limited and more than 5 Million tones of Deposits have been proved.

J&K mineral is envisaging exploiting this deposit as captive product for Thermal Power Station to be set up at site.

PCC PRODUCTS

J&K Minerals has its two units of Precast Cement products at Muyan (Kashmir) and

Bari-Brahmana (Jammu). The main products manufactured are.

(i) PCC Poles 7.5, 8.0 and 9.0 Meters in length.

(ii) Spun Pipes of sizes.

NP-2 and NP-3 classes, 3 size varying from 100 m dia to 1200 mm dia. (iii) Terrazo Tiles

(iv) Hollow Blocks

Uses:

(a) PCC Poles are generally used in Power Transmission Lines.

(b) Spun Pipes are used in Civil works i.e. Sewerage, Culverts and for water supply.

(c) Terrazo Tiles are used for ornamental flooring.

MARBLE

(i) Occurance: Marble deposits occur in Kupwara, Kashmir in various hues and colours. J&K Minerals is exploiting marble at Drug-Mulla Kupwara, Zirhama, and Owara belt of Kupwara.

(ii) Uses: The Marble Salbs after cutting, polishing and finishing are used in flooring, walling and as stable tops.

SULPHUR

Sulphur deposits occur in Kistawar in hues.

16. Districts

KASHMIR DIVISION

DISTRICT ANANTNAG

After carving out of District Kulgam, Anantnag District has been left with the geographical area of 2917 SqKms as per Revenue papers. Situated 55 Kms of South East of Srinagar, Anantnag District lies between 30°-30' to 34°-15' North latitudes and approximately 70° to 75° East longitudes. The District is contiguous to District Pulwama in the North West and District Srinagar in the North. The District is bounded in the East by District of Doda as well as Kishtwar while District Kulgam falls on its West and Kargil on its North East.

The District acquires the name from its main Town, which during the Hindu rule was named after the spring situated within it. The Town had gained significance during Aurangzeb's time when his Governor Islam Khan laid out a garden here for the Mughal Emperor and the place was named after him as Islamabad. Subsequently during the Dogra rule Maharaja Gulab Singh re-christened the town as Anantnag. Although the Town is officially called Anantnag, but publicly this Town is still commonly called by both the names, i.e Islamabad and Anantnag.

The District is famous for its springs, health resorts and places of religious importance and of Historical significance. Anantnag has an abundance of springs which are locally called "Nag." Verinag 26 Kms from Anantnag emanating from the foot hills of pine forests is the main source of the major river of the valley the "Jhelum". Kokernag the well known sweet water spring with trout hatcheries, Achabal spring surrounded by beautiful garden laid out during the Mughal period and Martand (Mattan) spring with religious significance are the main places of tourist attraction in the Distt. Pahalgam is the premier summer resort besides being the starting point for the pilgrims of Amarnath cave located at an altitude of 3963 Mtrs. above sea level and is 42 Kms in the North East of District Head quarter.

The majestic Martand Temple situated at a distance of 5 Kms from Anantnag Town is one of the important archaeological sites of the Country.

The District has six tehsils viz Anantnag, Bijbehara, Dooru, Shangus, Pahalgam & Kokernag and has 7 C.D. Block viz Achabal, Dachnipora, Khovripora, Shangus, Shahabad, Breng and Qazigund. District has 10 police stations viz Anantnag, Aishmuqam, Achabal, Bijbehara, Dooru, Kokernag, Mattan, Pahalgam, Qazigund & Srigufwara and 8 police posts at Sheerbag Anantnag, General Bus Stand Anantnag, Uttrersoo, Mir Bazar, Larnoo, Jawaher Tunnel, Khanabal and Verinag. There is one Municipal Council and, 8 Municipal Committees, 158 Panchayat Halqas, 393 inhabited villages and 13 un-inhabited villages in the District. The district has a population of 7.37 lacs out of which 1.55 & 5.81 as urban and rural population respectively. Of all the Districts of State, Anantnag claims the largest number of streams like Vethvethroo, Sand ran, Breng, Arpath & Lidder.

The District is predominantly inhabited by Kashmiri's who profess Islam and Hindus & Sikhs forming the minority community.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

The District has a fair number of shrines like shrine of Reshi Maloo(RA) at Anantnag shrine of Baba Bamudin (RA) at Bumzoo, Zain-ud-din Wali (RA) at Aishmuqam .There are three Industrial Estates one each at Anantnag, Anchidoora & Bijbehara .

DISTRICT ANANTNAG AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Ref. year	Magnitude
1	AREA			
	a. Geographical area	SqKms.	2001	2917
	b. forest area	SqKms.	2001	2614
	c. Net area sown	Hectts	2001	74530
2.	ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS			
	a. Tehsils	No's	2007	6
	b. Blocks	"	2007	7
	c. T.A.C	"	2007	1
	d. N.A.C's	"	2007	8
	e. Panchayats	"	2006	158
	f. Inhabited villages	"	2001	393
	g. uninhabited villages	"	2001	13
3	POPULATION (Census 2001)			
	a. Total	No's	2001	7.40 lac
	b. Urban	"	2001	1.65
	c. Rural	"	2001	5.85
	d. Schedule tribe	"	2001	52915
4	HEALTH INSTITUTIONS			
	a. District Hospitals	No's	2006	1
	b. Sub-Distt. Hospitals	"	2006	5
	c. Pry. Health Centers	"	2006	27
	d. Allopathic Dispensaries	"	2006	1
	e. Avurvedic / Unani Dispensaries	"	2006	
	e. Sub-Centers	"	2006	133
	f. Medical Aid Centers	"	2006	12
	g. No. of beds available in Hospitals	"	2006	440
5	EDUCATION			
	a. No. of Hr. Sec. Schools	No's	2006.	34
	b. No. of High Schools	"	-do-	68
	c. No. of Middle Schools	"	-do-	240
	d. No. of Pry. Schools	"	-do-	631
	e. No. of Colleges	"	-do-	4
	f. DIET	"	-do-	1
	q. Enrollment	"	-do-	1.47 lac
6	ROAD LENGTH			
	a. Macadam	Kms.	3/2007	142.25
	b. Black topped	Kms.	-do-	666.20
	c. Mettaled	"	-do-	449.18
	d. Shingled	"	-do-	120.25
	e. Fair Weather	"	-do-	82.90
	f. Jeepable	"	-do-	49.75
	Total	"	-do-	1368.28
7	Density of population per SqKms(2001 Census)			294
8	Number of Females Per thousand Males(2001 Census)			922
9	%age of schedule Caste Population to total population			0.05
10	Percentage of Main Workers to total population			33.53
11	Percentage of Net area irrigated to Net area Sown			45.51
12	Percentage of Villages electrified			100

13	Literacy %age (2001 Census)			44.10
14	Break-Up of literacy Percentage			
	Category	Urban	Rural	Total
	Male	72.62	52.37	55.56
	Female	74.93	28.78	31.50
	Total	61.50	41.04	44.10

DISTRICT BUDGAM

Budgam district derives its name from one of its villages which is its headquarter. Till the census held in 1941 the area was known as Sri Pratap Singh Pora after the name of Dogra ruler Maharaja Pratap Singh in whose rule it was constituted as a Tehsil for the first time. (Prior to 1951, the Tehsil of Budgam including other tehsils of the present District formed a part of the then Baramulla District consequent upon the administrative reorganization of the districts in the year 1979, Budgam district was carved out of Srinagar with three tehsils namely Budgam, Beerwah and Chadoora.) The District falls at a distance of about 14 Kms from the main city of Srinagar. Budgam district has a distinction of (adopting in heritage) being the resting place of great saint Shiekh Noor-ud-Din Wali (R.A) at Chararishrief besides shrines / tombs of other prominent saints and sufis with historical and religious significances which include shrine of Hazrat Ali Aali Bulkhi (Pakherpora), Tomb of Mir Shamus-ud-Din Iraqi, Shrine of Hazrat Gunj Baba Reshi, the shrine of Syed Salleh Khansahib, the tomb of Shams Fakir and Imam Bada Budgam.

The district has given birth to famous poets, writers and musicians like Shams Fakir, Shah Gafoor, Samad Mir and Abdul Ahad Azad.

Besides places of spiritual interests the district enjoys the reputation of having tourist spots like Yousmarg, Nilnag, Mount Tutakot, Sangi-Safaaid, Tosa Maidan, Pehjan, Nil Veerpal and Khag.

Important landmarks & installations of Budgam

- Petrol Depot at Sanat Nagar has the capacity of 50000 liters of petrol.
- LPG plant at Peerbagh has the capacity of 20000 liters.
- The only civil Airport in the valley is situated in this District which connects the valley to rest of the country. Besides it provides helicopter services to Kargil, Karnah and Gurez.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Tomb of Sheikh Noor-ud-din-Noorani: The tomb of Alamdar-e-Kashmir is situated 28 Kms in southwest of Srinagar at Charar-e-Sharif in Budgam District. The shrine on the burial site was constructed by the then ruler of Kashmir Zain ul Abideen. Sheikh Noor-ud-din was born in Kaimoh and his ancestors belonged to Kishtwar. He was a pious soul and travelled throughout Kashmir to spread the message of his religion. He meditated for 12 years inside a cave. Four centuries after his death Afghan governor Atta Mohd. Khan issued coins in his name. The shrine along with Khanqah was gutted in a devastating fire in 1995.

The Shrine of Khan Saheb: It is situated in the Khan Saheb block of the District. It is associated with famous saint Hazrat Saleh Khan who belonged to village Pakhla of Pakistan. Syed Saleh Khan also meditated inside a cave for 12 years and stayed in Srinagar for some time. He was also a fine calligrapher.

Imam Bara Budgam: The Imam Bara is a holy place for Shiite Muslims of Kashmir. This building was constructed in the year 1857. The present Imam Bara is octagonal

and has five main entrances each of 12ft width. One of the doors is reserved for women. The Imam Bara is a piece of indo-Iranian architecture and commands great reverence among Shia masses.

Ziarat Alamdar-e -Kashmir: The land of Khag was fortunate enough to have Sheikh Noor-ud-Din as a visitor. Sheikh selected a rock at Khag for meditation and this bears the imprints of his feet. This rock is known as shah Kaen. A shrine is built there in the memory of the saint.

The Tomb of Sham Ded: Sham Ded was a daughter of a Iron smith in Poshker village and was initiated into spirituality by Sheikh-ul-Alam. The pious lady after his death was laid to rest in Poshker village and a shrine was constructed there. Other shrines of various pious saints abound in Budgam. These are shrines of:

Baba Latif-ud-Din, Syed Mohd Samri, Hazrat Ganga Baba Reshi, Zia -ud-Din Bukhari.

TOURIST PLACES

The famous Tourist Places are –Nilnag, Yousmarg, Sange-safed, Mount Tutakuti and Tosa- Maidan etc.

DISTRICT BUDGAM AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Ref. year	Unit	Magnitude
1	Geographical area	2001	SqKms	1371
2	Forest Area	2001	Sq. Kms	477
3	Tehsils	2007	No	3
4	Blocks	2007	No	8
5	Panchayats	2001	No	199
6	Population	Census 2001	Lacs	
	i) Rural			5.55
	ii) Urban			0.50
	Total			6.05
7	Villages	Census 1981	Nos	
	i) Inhabited			475
	ii) Un-inhabited			21
8	Density of population	Census 2001	Souls / SqKms	459
9	Sex ratio	Census 2001	Females/1000 Males	930
10	Birth rate	2005-06	Per thousand	8.39
11	Death rate	2005-06	Per thousand	2.77
12	Growth rate of population	Census 2001	Decadal %	26.53
13	Literacy (above 6 years pop)	Census 2001	%	42.5
	i) Male			51.23
	ii) Female			26.60
	iii) Urban			57.11
	iv) Rural			38.09
14	Net area sown	2006-07	Hect	47114
15	Roads	2006-07	Kms	
	a) Surfaced			1177.10
	b) Un-surfaced			17.21
16	Telephone connections	2006-07	Nos	15518
17	Co-operative societies	2006-07	Nos	
	a) Numbers			239
	b) Membership			50520
18	Registered factories		Nos	
	a) Number	2006-07		11

	b) Workers			291
19	Education		Nos	
	a) Primary school	2006-07		
	i) Number			641
	ii) Enrolment			80348
	b) Middle schools	2006-07	Nos	
	i) Number			265
	ii) Enrollment			30942
	c) High & Hr. secondary	2006-07	Nos	
	i) Number			98
	ii) Enrollment			19810
20	Water supply	2006-07	Nos	
	i) Villages covered			475
	ii) Water connection			24112(p)
	iii) Tube wells			75(p)
	iv) Dug wells			97(p)
21	Percentage of villages electrified	2006-07	% age	89.89
22	Schools per lakh of population	2006-07	Nos	
	a) Primary			100
	b) Middle			44
	c) High/Hr. Secondary			N.A
23	No. of bank offices per lakh of population	2006-07	Nos	07
24	No. of post offices per lakh of population	2006-07	Nos	13
25	No. of telephone connections per lakh population	2006-07	Nos	2465

DISTRICT BARAMULLA

City of Baramulla was founded by Raja Bhim Singh in 2306 BC and is a gateway to the valley because of its location on the route to the valley from Muzaffarabad (POK) and Rawalpindi in Pakistan.

Many prominent visitors and historians have visited Baramulla. These include the famous Chinese visitor Hieun Tsang and Moorcroft (British Historian). Mughal Emperors had special fascination for Baramulla. Being the gateway to the valley it was a halting station for them during their visit to the valley. In 1508 AD Emperor Akbar entered the valley via Pakhil and spent a few days at Baramulla, and according to Tahrikhe Hassan 'Baramulla City' was decorated like a bride. Jahangir had also spent some days in Baramulla during his visit to Kashmir in 1620 AD.

It provided resting place to great Saint Baba Payam-u-din Reshi famously known as Baba Reshi at Tangmarg. There are shrines/tombs of other prominent Saints and Sofi's with historical and religious significance which include Shrine of Hazrat Baba Shukur Din at Watlab Sopore, birth place of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Aarifin (Tujjar Sharief), Baba Gafoor Sahib at Peerniya Un, Hazrat Janbaz Wali at Khanpora Baramulla and Tomb of Hazrat Shahi Hamdan Sahib. In 1894 the sixth Sikh Guru Shri Hargobind Ji visited the city and Gurduwara "Chatti Padshahi" was constructed in His memory. Baramulla thus became an abode of Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Sikhs living in harmony and contributing to a rich composite culture.

Besides places of spiritual interest the district have tourist spots like Wular Lake, NHPC Uri, Gulmarg, Gulnar Park, Eco Park, Qitar daji (Rafiabad) and Salamabad, etc.

Before the division, erstwhile District Baramulla had an area of 4588 SqKms and comprised 09 Tehsils. After the division of Baramulla District from which Bandipora

District has been carved, the District Baramulla now covers an area of 4190 Sq. Kms. It consists of 8 Tehsils namely Sopore, Rohama, Pattan, Tangmarg, Baramulla, Uri, and Zaingeer & Boniyar. There are 18 Niabats. The district is administratively divided into 12 CD Blocks namely Uri, Baramulla, Boniyar, Wagoora, Rohama, Rafiabad, Sopore, Zaingeer, Tangmarg, Pattan, Singapore, and Kunzer. These blocks are further divided into 195 Panchayats for administrative convenience, which consists of 520 inhabited villages and 11 uninhabited villages. There are 2 Municipal Councils (Baramulla and Sopore) and 4 Municipal Committees (I) Uri, ii) Pattan, Tangmarg, IV) Kunzer.

Sourepur now called as Sopore also known as the Apple Town of Kashmir is famous throughout the Country for its delicious apples and is one the densely populated Towns of the Baramulla.

Baramulla extends to both the mountainous and plain areas. It is bounded by District Kupwara in the North, Budgam and Poonch in the South, parts of Srinagar and Ladakh in the East and has Line of Control in the West.

Baramulla enjoys same climate as that of neighboring District Kupwara, Srinagar and Budgam. However some regions of Baramulla District get more snow/rain and as such these places experience severe cold in winter.

Prior to 1947 trade was conducted through Uri-Muzafarabad road (located at LOC) because of being the gateway to the valley.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Pattan: This is an old town and remained capital of Kashmir during Shanker Varnian regime. It is 26 Kms from Srinagar.

TOURIST PLACES

The Tourist Places are Gulmarg, Manasbal Lake, Watlab, Wullar Lake, Sopore, etc.

DISTRICT BARAMULLA AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Ref. Year	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area			
	Geographical Area	2001	Sq Kms	4190
	Forest	2006-2007	000 Hects	143.75
	Net Area sown	2006-2007	000 Hects	87.125
	Gross Area sown	2006-2007	000 Hects	91.117
2	Population	2001 Census	Lakhs	
	Total population	-do-	-do-	8.11
	Sex Ratio			
	Male	-do-	%age	52.38%
	Female	-do-	%age	47.62%
3	Working Force	2001- Census	Lakhs	
	A) Main Workers	-do-	-do-	2.71
	B) Marginal Workers	-do-	-do-	1.00
	C) Cultivators	-do-	-do-	1.24
	D) Agricultural Laborers	-do-	-do-	0.43
4	Administrative Units			
	No. of Tehsils	-do-	-do-	08
	No. of Blocks	-do-	-do-	12
	No. of Towns	-do-	-do-	09
	No. of Villages	-do-	-do-	531
	No. of un-inhabited inhabited villages	-do-	-do-	11
		-do-	-do-	520

	No. of Assembly constituencies	-do-	-do-	10
	Panchayats	-do-	-do-	354
5	Banking			
	No. of bank branches	2006-2007	Nos	130
	Bank deposits	-do-	Rs. in crores	1525.26
	Bank Advances	-do-	-do-	559.76
	Bank Advances as % of deposits	-do-	-do-	37%
6	Education			
	No. of Primary Schools	2006-2007	Nos	1229
	No. of Middle Schools	-do-	-do-	557
	No. of Agriculture college	-do-	-do-	01
	No. of High/Hr. Sr. Schools	-do-	do-	176
	No. of B Ed. Colleges	-do-	-do-	09
	No. of Degree Colleges	-do-	-do-	07
	Literacy rate	Census -2001	-do-	44.57
	Male	-do-	%age	56.39
	Female	-do-	-do-	31.42
	Rural	-do-	do-	41.00
	Urban	-do-	-do-	61.24
7	Health			
	Hospitals/Sub-Distt. Hospitals	2006-2007	No's	10
	Dispensaries	-do-	-do-	130
	P.H.C's and Sub- Centers	-do-	-do-	242
	Doctors/Naids/Hakims	-do-	-do-	211
	Beds available in Hospitals	-do-	-do-	582
	Roads Surfaced			
8	a) Black topped	2007-08	Kms	653.95
	b) Mettaled			926.06
	c) Shingled			206.34
		Total	1786.35	
	Unsurfaced			
	a) Fair weather		Kms	182.83
	b) Jeepable			4.25
	c) Bridle path			47.36
			Total	234.44
9	Density of population	2001	number per SqKms	255
10	Literacy rate	2001	% age	44.57
11	Decadal growth rate	2001	% age	31.18
12	Average holding size	2006-2007	Hect	0.58
13	Average livestock per Household size	2006-2007	Number	9

DISTRICT BANDIPORA

District Bandipora has come into being from 2nd of April 2007, with a geographical area of 398 SqKms on bifurcation of erstwhile district Baramulla. The population of the District is about 352436 as per census 2001 which consist of 16% of tribal population and over 69% population is residing in rural areas. There are 184 villages out of which 3 villages are un-inhabited, three tehsils namely Gurez, Sonawari and Bandipora with 36 Patwar Halqas inhabitants, 4 CD Blocks, 113 Panchayat Halqas, 5 Education Zones and 4 Medical Blocks. The cultivable land available is 30985 Hect. And usually single crop is grown. The cultivable area is under orchards and cereals.

Bandipora all along used to be a well known town which almost served as a port in old times. It used to be one of the important places of the old kingdom known as Khuaihom. During Mughal period, there were two main ports which were the sources of communication between Srinagar and the Central Asian States for commercial purposes. These ports were namely, Aloosa (Ghat) and Nasoo (Bandipora). For about a century, Aloosa remained headquarter for pargana Khuaihom. The route to Central Asia traversed through Aloosa and once Mughal emperors conferred the area of Khuaihom as 'Jagir' to the family of Bandey's in Srinagar, since then the area is known as Bandipora. Bandipora in ancient and medieval times as Khuaihom had three routes which used to connect with china, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kirgistan, Turkamania, Afghanistan and Iran. Bandipora is known as "Gateway of Gilgit" and Astore (Askardu). Commerce was transacted with central Asia and Ladakh region via Bandipora. Bandipora situated around the north shore of the Wular Lake, in front of the mountains, is an edging ground covered with villages.

The topography of the new District represents a mix of beautiful mountains and streams offering tremendous potential for developing scenic and adventure tourism.

Gurez being one of the Tehsils of the District is also famous for its green valleys & snow covered mountains. Nature lovers and Tourists always visit Gurez while their stay at Bandipora.

River Kishen Ganga flows through this District which has vast potential for generating hydro electricity and also marine life. With the District Administration located nearby it should be possible for them to deploy resources more effectively. Nallahs Madumafi and Arm Nallahs famous for trout fish flow in this District. The Wular Lake, largest of all fresh lakes in Asia lends further attraction to this District and provides economic activity to large chunk of population.

DISTRICT BANDIPORA AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Ref. year	Magnitude
1	Geographical Area.	Sq. Kms.	2001	398
2	No. of Villages.	Nos	2007	184
	Inhabited.	Nos	2007	181
	Un-inhabited.	Nos	2007	03
3	Patwar Halqas.	Nos	2007	36
	Niabats.	Nos	2007	08
	Municipal Committees.	Nos	2007	03
4	No. of Tehsils.	Nos	2007	03
5	No. of Blocks.	Nos	2007	04
6	No. of Panchayat Halqas.	Nos	2007	133

	Model Villages.	Nos	2007	03
	Community Information centers.	Nos	2007	04
	Assembly Constituencies.	Nos	2007	03
7	Population	Nos	2001	352436
10	LITERACY RATE			
	Male.	%age	2001	52
	Female.	%age	2001	48
11	ROAD LENGTH			
	Total Road Length.	Kms.	2007 - 08	303. 15
	Black topped.	Kms.	2007 - 08	124.30
	Metalled/Re-metalled	Kms.	2007 - 08	123.60
	Shingled / Soling.	Kms.	2007 - 08	33. 75
	Fair Weather.	Kms.	2007 - 08	20.50
	Jeep able.	Kms.	2007 - 08	1. 00
12	HEALTH			
	Sub. Distt. Hospitals/CHCs	Nos	2007	03
	P.H. Cs	Nos	2007	06
	Subsidiary Health Centre.	Nos	2007	01
	Allopathic Dispensaries	Nos	2007	05
	Unani Dispensaries.	Nos	2007	16
	Medical Aid Centre	Nos	2007	06
	Sub-centre (Normal/ F. Welfare)	Nos	2007	42
13	EDUCATION			
	Degree College.	Nos	2007	01
	B. Ed College (Pvt.)	Nos	2007	05
	Higher Secondary Schools	Nos	2007	16
	High Schools	Nos	2007	23
	Middle Schools	Nos	2007	107
	Primary Schools.	Nos	2007	362
14	SOCIAL WELFARE			
	No. of Social Welfare Centers.	Nos	2007	03
	Anganwadi Centers.	Nos	2007	561
	Beneficiaries covered.	Nos	2007	22440
15	ELECTRICITY			
	Receiving station (33/11 KV) 66	Nos	2007	08
	Sub Stations.	Nos	2007	687
	Length of 11 KV line.	Nos	2007	1100
	Length of LT line	Nos	2007	2897
	Connections.	Nos	2007	26850
	D. G. Sets.	Nos	2007	13
	No. of un-electrified villages.	Nos	2007	22
16	COOPERATIVE			
	Cop. Marketing Societies.	Nos	2007	04
	Pry. Agri. Coop. Societies.	Nos	2007	12

Poultry.	Nos	2007	19
Dairy.	Nos	2007	07
Bank Branches.	Nos	2007	05

DISTRICT GANDERBAL

District Ganderbal among other eight newly created Districts came into being in the year 2007 in the larger interests of maintenance of law & order, closed supervision, more effective control & above all to ensure balanced development of the areas falling within its jurisdiction. District Ganderbal carved out of District Srinagar is flanked by District Baramulla in the West, District Srinagar in the South, newly created District Bandipora in the North West, Arhama Forests in the North, and District Kargil in the East. As per the SRO No. 185, dated 22-05-2007 issued by the Revenue Department notifying there in the boundaries of the District, the District comprises 136 villages which are grouped into 3 Tehsils viz. Ganderbal, Kangan and newly created Lar. In order to ensure faster implementation of various developmental activities, the District has been divided in as many as four CD blocks, one Municipal Committee with 13 Wards and 5 Educational zones. The Administrative center of the District is situated at Beehama Ganderbal about 22 Kms away from the District Srinagar.

The district has the distinction of having a unique geographical position as it represents the last station of the valley depicting all the scenic features of the Kashmir valley and the gate way to the sky touching , denuded magnificent and multicolored mountain ranges of the famous "Moon Land" Ladakh. The main road connecting to Ladakh region is through Sonamarg (Ganderbal) which remains closed for six months during winter due to heavy snow fall at Zogilla. Added to this, the presence of famous health resort Sonamarg and Manasbal Lake on its fringes, Qamar Sahib & Tulamula Shrines in its lap and Smudh Nallah traversing through can contribute to the emergence of this area both as a recreation and pilgrim tourist spot, triggering a chain of development activities that would catapult this region into economic prominence.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the District .The agriculture products like paddy & fruits are the main contributors to the GDP of the District.

As per census 2001, the District has a population of 2.12 lac souls. As per the rough estimates the present population is estimated at 2.44 Lac souls which include a schedule tribe population of about 0.45 lacs. The total literacy rate of the District is about 40% and in respect of females it is about 27%. The total cultivable area is 17315 hectares and the area under fresh/dry fruits is 7755 hectares. The live stock population of the District estimated at present is about 2.15 lac heads.

TOURIST PLACES

The Tourist Places are Sonamarg, Manasbal lake, Gangabal and Preng.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Khair Bhawani Temple: Situated at Tulamula in the Ganderbal district, is an important Hindu shrine. The temple is associated with the Hindu goddess, Ragnya Devi. An annual festival is held here on Jesht Ashtami (May-June) when Hindus visit the place in large numbers to offer prayers and seek the blessings of the deity. In addition, there are umpteen places of religious importance in Srinagar.

In addition to this Ganderbal also serves as the base camp for amarnath Pilgrims who visit through Sonamarg to the holy cave. There are also shrines of saints like Syed Shah Sahib Nunar and Shah Qalander Sahib Lar.

DISTRICT GANDERBAL AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S No	Description	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	SqKms	1045(P)
2	Total Population (Census 2001)	Lacs	2.12
3	Total estimated population (2007)	Lacs	2.49
4	Sex Ratio	No	915
5	Total number of Revenue villages	No	136
6	Number of Tehsils	No	3
7	Number of CD blocks	No	4
8	Number of Panchayat Halqas	No	104
9	Number of Patwar Halqas	No	37
10	Number of Municipal Committees	No	1
11	Number of Municipal Wards	No	13
12	EDUCATION		
	Degree College	No	1
	Physical training College	No	1
	Education Zones	No	5
	Hr. Sec. Schools	No	13
	High schools	No	23
	Middle schools	No	113
	Pry. Schools	No	216
	EGS centers	No	170
	Literacy rate	%age	40%
13	HEALTH		
	Sub District Hospital	No	2
	CHC	No	1
	PHC	No	16
	MMC	No	2
	Sub centers	No	53
14	SOCIAL WELFARE		
	Bal-Ashram	No	1
	Cottage industry center	No	2
	Social welfare center	No	4
	Vocational Training center	No	1
	Social welfare centers under (SCA & TSP)	No	5
	ICDS Projects	No	3
	ICDS centers	No	435
	Anganwadi workers	No	435
	Anganwadi helpers	No	435
	ICDS centers under expansion out of 435	No	132
15	ROADS		
	Total road length	Kms	396.40
	Black topped/ metalled	Kms	185.52
	Shingled	Kms	74.00
	RMT/MT	Kms	98.26
	Fair weather	Kms	39.22

DISTRICT KUPWARA

Kupwara District came into existence in the year 1979 as a result of bifurcation of the erstwhile Baramulla District. The District consists of 369 census villages as per 1981 census, comprising of three tehsils viz., Handwara, Kupwara, and Karnah, eleven CD Blocks namely Kupwara, Sogam, Trehgam, Kralpora, Ramhall, Rajwar, Langate, Tangdar, Teetwal, Kalaroosa, Wavoora, Two municipal committees of Handwara and Kupwara. The total population of the district as per census 2001 is 6.50 lac souls of which 96% live in rural area and 4% live in urban areas. The density of population is 273 per SqKms. The total households are 87052 as per census 2001. The total geographical area of the district is 2379sqkms. The district though hilly and covered with mountains has beautiful tourist and fragrant flower spots / places namely Lolab and Bungus valleys fast growing streams and many other natural sceneries. The district is socially and economically very much backward.

Kupwara is the backward frontier District of Valley and is full of scenic beauty. Dense forests and rich wild life makes it significant for tourism and wildlife point of view. Nature has been very kind to Kupwara. The geographical area is 2379 sq km. In the east and south lie Baramulla, in the west and north there is LOC located at Karnah which separates it from Muzaffarabad (Pakistan) and is at a distance of 90 Kms from Srinagar. Handwara is a developing township of the district. It will be the important tourist destination and market for Bungus Valley tourism project. Handwara is one of the oldest tehsils of the state and in pre-independence period it was known as tehsil "Utter Machipora" covering the areas falling presently under the jurisdiction of tehsil Kupwara, Bandipora and Sopre.

The altitude is 5300 ft. above sea level. Kishenganga is the main river originating from Himalayas that flows through the outer area of Kupwara finally joining Jhelum at Domel in PoK. Hilly areas of Karnah, Machil and Keran are situated at the LOC.

The Climate of the District is pleasant in spring, moderate in summer and cold in winter. Temperature rises to 37 degrees in summer to minus 10 degrees in winter. Forests of Kupwara possess Kail, Fir, Pine, Elm and blue in abundance. Chinars, Poplous and walnuts are grown in the area.

There is wide range of wildlife, among the bird's crows, vultures, falcons. woodpeckers, swallows, bushchats, flycatchers, bulbul, dove, pigeons are found and among the animals black bear, red bear, tigers, goats, markhor, monkeys, wild bulls, muskdeer are found.

Administratively Kupwara is divided in three tehsils viz Kupwara, Handwara, and Karnah.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Muqam-e-Shahwali - Mazar-e-sharief of Zattishah at Village Mugam near Drugmulla four Kms from Kupwara Town. "Urs" is celebrated every year in the month of may in which people hailing from various parts of the sate participate. The management of the shrine is looked after by Muslim wakaf Board.

Ziarat -i- Baba Abdullah Gazi - Situated at Kralpora guzrail about 20 Kms from Kupwara town in the northwest.

Shrine of Prakash Akhoon - Located at Gushi 3 Kms from Kupwara town. Prakash pundit was a prominent scholar of Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Sanskrit languages.

Kheer Bhawani Asthapan - Located at Tikker on chowkibal road about 1Km from Kupwara town. Anniversary is celebrated in the month of April-May.

Shrine of Syed Baha-u-din – located at village Batpora Magam on Handwara-Wilgam road about 5Kms from Handwara. Anniversary is celebrated in the month of November falling on 14th of Pooch every year.besides annual religious congregation commonly known as “BANDARAH” held in the month of “sawan” i.e july- August. The management of the shrine traditionally remains with the Mutwalis who had been granted Jaggir by the rulers in pre- settlement period. In the past Khanqah also had been an important seat of religious teaching and learning.

TOURIST PLACES

Famous Springs, Kajinag - Located at Kajinag Mountain, Trehgam Nag – Trehgam Town, Ghazrinag - Ghazrial kralapora, ZatishahNag - Drugmulla, Lolenag - Lalpora Lolab, Shumnag - Trehgam, Mirnag - Haihama. Famous Mountain Ranges Peaks and Passes, Kijinag mountain Range, Shamas Bary peak, Caves of Raja Ram, Asmala slope, Tumar Pass, Farktan, Jar Pass, Harwan Pass.

DISTRICT KUPWARA AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Ref. year	Magnitude
1	Density of population per SqKms	Nos	2001	273
2	Literacy	%age	2001	43.20
3	Decadal growth of population	%age	2001	40.84
4	Working population ratio	%age	2001	31.6
5	Average holding size	Hects	1995-96	0.44
6	Average livestock Per household	Nos	2002-03	4
7	Villages electrified	%age	2006	95
8	Villages given portable drinking water	%age	2006-07	96
9	Geographical Dimensions			
	Geographical area	SqKms	2001	2379
	Area under demarcated forests	SqKms	2006-07	1703
	Total reporting area	L.Hects	2006-07	0.67
	Cultivated area	L.Hects	2006-07	0.47
	Net area sown	L.Hects	2006-07	0.49
	Gross area sown	L.Hects	2006-07	0.498
	No. of holdings	L.Nos	2006-07	1.04
10	Population			
	Total population	L.Souls	2001	6.50
	Rural population	L.Souls	2001	6.25
	Urban population	L.Souls	2001	0.25
	Population Density	Per SqKms	2001	269
11	Working force			
	Main workers	L.Nos	2001	2.12
	Marginal workers	L.Nos	2001	0.90
12	Administrative Units			
	Tehsils	Nos	2006-07	03
	Blocks	Nos	2006-07	11
	Towns	Nos	2006-07	02

Total villages	Nos	2006-07	367
Uninhabited villages	Nos	2006-07	04
Residential houses	L. Nos	2001	0.70
Households	L. Nos	2001	0.87
13 Irrigation			
Net area irrigated	L.Hects	2006-07	0.249
Gross area irrigated	L.Hects	2006-07	0.249
14 Banking			
Bank branches	Nos	2006-07	55
Deposits	Rs. In Lacs	2006-07	54190.48
Advances	Rs. In Lacs	2006-07	15222.34
15 Medical institutions			
Hospitals	Nos	2006-07	8
Dispensaries and other medical centers	Nos	2006-07	106
Family welfare centers and sub centers	Nos	2006-07	155
16 Villages electrified	Nos	2006-07	356
17 Villages provided potable drinking water	Nos	2006-07	354
18 Transport and communication			
Total road length	Kms	2006-07	877
Surfaced road length	Kms	2006-07	850
Post and telegraph offices	Nos	2006-07	76
Telephone connections	Nos	2006-07	2929

DISTRICT KULGAM

Kulgam a picturesque town is situated at 75° 268' E longitude and 33°1584' N latitude nestled in the lap of Peer Panchal Ranges overlooking the left bank of River Veshaw and has come up along a sloppy Karewa from Larow to Chawalgam. Be it the interaction with other civilizations, absorption of religious and other socio economic movements having swept sub-continent/Asia and above all the mythology associated with river Veshaw, emanating from the Kounsernag and flowing with majesty as well as ferociously depending upon the season and climatic conditions and at times resembling the prowess of mythological God/Angel when viewed in the context of its irrigation potential and utilization thereof in the District becoming the main source. Kulgam has the distinction of having contributed in the evolution of present day soda-cultural ethos of Kashmir hinged in sobriety, compassion, non-violence, yearning for learning and receptiveness for new ideas and reformation with no parallel in terms of recorded history in the sub-continent. Tazkira Sadat-i-Simanania, compiled by Swaleh Reshi, a reputed scholar and poet of 13th Century, contains the name of place as "Shampora" which was later on renamed as Kulgam by Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) when beholden with the myriad number of Canals and streams flowing through the village. The word Kulgam denotes "Kul" meaning thereby the "Whole" and the "Gam" in Arabic to "teach righteousness". It is he who is stated to have invited Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Hamdani (RA) to Kashmir and famous poet and poetess like Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani and Lal Ded respectively to Kulgam where their disciples manifesting the composite culture promoted and encouraged it even when the dissension in rest of the Asiatic countries was taken as heretics. Kulgam as such is believed to be a place acting as a torch bearer for righteousness in the circumspection of myriad streams running through the area. The form of

administration which was rudimentary but gained semblance of a structured system during Shair Shah Suri's reign led to creation of a Tehsil eventually during Mughal Rule through the aegis of Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (RA) with jurisdiction encompassing places like Doru, Banihal, Gulabgarh, Shopian and thereafter the status continued but in the process, its constituent units like Pulwama and now along with it Shopian, Reasi attained the status of a District. Such is the climatic and topographical treasure in the District that from Mughal Emperors to Dogra Rulers the area has had been a hunting place especially for Shahanshah Shah Jehan who laid the Chinabagh and Maharaja Hari Singh who discovered the virgin potential of sanctuary at Kutbal. From out of the spiritual, great poets and statesman like politicians the District has distinction of being the birth place of Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani, the founder of Reshi culture and native place of the forefathers of Alama Iqbal and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

As a result of creation of 8 new districts in the State, district Kulgam like other newly created districts came into existence after being carved out from district Anantnag and made functional administratively with effect from 2nd April, 2007. Nallah Veshav which drains most of the northern face of Pir Panjal is the main left bank tributary of river Jhelum and traverses through District Kulgam. Before confluence of Veshav with the Jhelum it gets broken off into a number of channels providing drinking water facilities and irrigation to huge tracts of the land of the District.

Town Kulgam is situated at a distance of about 68 Kms from Srinagar and about 17 Kms from Anantnag. It has road connectivity with its neighboring districts like Shopian, Pulwama, Anantnag and Ramban. Town of Kulgam is linked with far flung areas of the District by a dependable road network. Besides places of spiritual interest the district has tourist spots like "Ahrabal water fall" on Veshav Nallah which is a place of sight-seeing in the extreme south-west of district Kulgam. Kongwattan and Gurwattan ahead of Ahrabal, Charenbal and Nandimarg high land pastures are also places of tourist attraction apart from virgin meadows in the area from Kund to Ladigasan (ahead of Aherbal clefts). The District also has super abundance of natural water resources in the shape of various famous springs such as, Kounsernag (ahead of Aherbal), Waseknag (Kund), Khee Nag (Khee Jogipora), etc.

The geographical area of the district is 1067 Sq Kms (subject to final verification). The District Kulgam comprises of three tehsils namely Kulgam, Devsar and Damhal Hanjipora. There are 9 Niabats viz; Kulgam, Qaimoh, Mirhama Devsar, Chowgam, DH Pora, Nagam and Arwani (partly). There are also 6 Community Development Blocks out of which 2 blocks fall partly within the administrative jurisdiction of the District. These CD blocks are Qaimoh (partly), Kulgam, DH Pora, Pahloo, Devsar and Qazigund (partly). As per census 2001 the district consist of 265 villages out of which 259 villages are inhabited villages and 6 villages are uninhabited. There are 7 Municipal Committees viz; Kulgam, Qaimoh, Devsar, Yaripora, Frisal, Mohammadpora and Ashmuji. Out of four assembly segments, two assembly segments namely HS Bugh and Devsar fall partly in the District while as the remaining two constituencies namely Kulgam and DH Pora fall fully in the District.

As per 2001 Census, the District has a population of 432015 souls with a sex ratio of 946 females per 1000 males as against State ratio of 896 females per 1000 males. Population of the District is predominantly Muslims followed by Hindus and Sikhs. The density of population for the district is 364 persons per square km as against 799 persons per SqKm at the State level

The district is mostly rural in character except the notified areas of MC Qaimoh, MC Kulgam, MC Devsar, MC Yaripora, MC Frisal, MC Mohammadpora and MC Ashmuji.

Apart from Kulgam, four MCs namely Qaimoh, Devsar, Yaripora and Frisal came into being during the year 2006 and Mohammadpora & Ashmuji during 2007, but the populations of the villages falling within the limits of these Municipal Committees have been reckoned as per 2001 census.

District Kulgam has the Districts of Anantnag and Shopian in its contiguity on its eastern and northern sides respectively. The Districts of Reasi, Ramban and Rajouri fall on its south and south-west, though separated by mighty and majestic mountainous range of Pir Panjal, acting as a massive topographical protection but rich in vegetation and forests with vast and extensive pastures on its lower slopes and foot hills.

About 82.80 % of population lives in rural areas and the agriculture is the main source of livelihood of about 80 percent of the total population. Nature has gifted and bestowed this whole area with agro climatic conditions suited for agriculture in its lower belts and fruit culture in the upper areas. On account of fertile lands with better yield and productivity, Kulgam is considered as 'Rice Bowl' of Kashmir. Upper areas of Kulgam are known for the production of quality apple. Due to conducive environment 'Rice Seed Multiplication Farm' spread over a large area stands established, by the SK Agricultural University of Science and Technology in Tehsil Kulgam at Khudwani and Kendriya Krishi Vegyan at Pombay Kulgam for technology transfer. Live stock and sheep rearing is a subsidiary occupation of the rural population particularly in the upper belts which also certainly contribute in the amelioration of their socio-economic scenario. As a result of the availability of summer pastures, the district abounds in improved quality of sheep and other animals.

DISTRICT KULGAM AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Item	Unit	Ref. year	Magnitude
1	Geographical area	SqKms	2007-08	1067
	Net Area Sown	Hect		24781
2	Population	Souls	2007-08	432015
8	No of house holds	Nos	-do-	49936
9	Tehsils	Nos	-do-	3
10	Niabats	Nos	-do-	8+1
11	Patwar Halqas	Nos	2001 census	57
12	Revenue villages	Nos	2001 census	265
13	Inhabited villages	Nos	-do-	259
14	Un inhabited villages	Nos	-do-	6
15	CD blocks	Nos	2007-08	6 (4 fully & 2 partly)
16	Panchayats	Nos	2007-08	165
17	Municipalities	Nos	2007-08	7 Kulgam, Yaripora, Frisal, Qaimoh, Devsar, Ashmuji and Mohammadpora
18	Assembly constituencies	Nos	2007-08	4
19	Literacy rate	%age	2007-08	38.06
20	Male literates	Souls	2007-08	92774 (46.41%)
21	Female literates	Souls	2007-08	55277 (29.23)

DISTRICT PULWAMA

District Pulwama came into being in the year 1979 in the larger interests of maintenance of law and order, closer supervision, more effective control and above all to ensure balanced development of the area. Pulwama district comprised of 550 villages, which were grouped in 5 Tehsils viz. Shopian, Pulwama, Tral, Pampore &

Awantipora. Now, again the district has been bifurcated in two parts viz. District Shopian & District Pulwama. In District Pulwama there are 4 tehsils, namely, Pulwama, Tral, and Awantipora & Pampore. The total number of villages came down to 319 with 4 CD Blocks and part of Keller block. The reporting area of this district has been reduced to 0.67 lac Hectares from 0.98 Hectares after creation of the new Hill District, Shopian. Pulwama is commonly known as "grain bowl" because it was considered to be the grainery of Kashmir in the past.

Carved out of Anantnag district, the district, situated 32 Kms from Srinagar in south Kashmir, is surrounded in the north by Srinagar, in the west by Poonch and Budgam and in the east by Anantnag. Majority of the population i.e 88% speak Kashmiri language while the rest speak Phari and Gujri. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people with a small number rearing cattle for livelihood. The main crops in the district include Paddy, Maize, Mustard and Pulses. Fodder is also cultivated in the winter. The world famous saffron fields adorn the district and the cherished apple, Ambree, is also grown here. As per 2001 census, the District Pulwama has a population of 4.41 lacs. The total literacy rate of the district is at 49.60%. It is 60.70% in respect of males and 37.70% in respect of females. Agriculture plays an important role in the economy of the District. The agriculture products like paddy, oil seeds, fodder, saffron & milk are the main contributors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the District. Area sown more than once is about 0.26 lac hectares & the productivity of the land in the district is higher than in any other District in the State. District Pulwama is famous for saffron cultivation which is mainly grown in Karewa lands of Pampore, Kakapora and Pulwama blocks. The area under saffron cultivation during 2006-07 was 2600 hectares. Among the fruits, apple, almonds, walnut & cherry are the important one produced in this District. This District has the distinction of having the State's largest Cement Plant viz. J&K Cements Ltd. at Khrew with a capacity of 1200 M, tones cement per day. In this District two important projects have been taken up for execution during current year namely, State Entrepreneur Development Institute and International Trade Centre at Pampore.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

The Avantishwar Temple: The Awantishwar temple at Jawbrari is the significant monuments present in the district. The temple was built by Raja Awanti Varman in the 9th Century A.D when he chose as his capital instead of Srinagar.

The Payer Temple: Payer temple is situated about 3 kms in the south of Pulwama district. The temple is known after the village Payer, where it is situated. Vigne, Cunningham and some other travellers call it Payech temple.

The shrine of Shah Hamdan: Situated in Tral town, the shrine is believed to have been built by Mir Syed Ali Hamdani. People in large numbers throng the shrine on annual festivals associated with the saint.

Shrine of Syed Ali Madni at Amlar Tral & Shrine of Sheikh-ul Aalam at Hari Parigam are also very famous Muslim Pilgrimage destinations in the area. People in large numbers throng the shrine on annual festivals associated with the saint.

Apart from having such a historical importance Pulwama is also home town of great poets of the Kashmir like Mehjoor & Habba Khatoon whose poetry and songs are give lessons to the humankind.

TOURIST PLACES

The Puiwama district has some beautiful tourist spots, the famous among which are: Aharbal, Nagberan, Shikargah, Tarsar Marsar and Kungwattan etc.

DISTRICT PULWAMA AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Ref. year	Magnitude
1	Geographical area	SqKms	2006-07	1090.58
2	Area under demarcated forests	SqKms	2006-07	559.5
3	Total population	Lakhs	2001Census	4.41
4	Working Force			
a)	Main workers	Nos	2001Census	156585
b)	Marginal workers	Nos	2001Census	61672
5	Administrative Setup			
	Tehsils		2007	4
	Blocks		2006	5
	Total villages	Nos	2001Census	319
	a) Inhabited			315
	b) Un-inhabited			4
	a) MOP	000 Qtls	2006-07	14
6	Industries			
	a) Regd. Factories	Nos	2006-07	84
	b) Regd. SSI units	Nos	2006-07	2420
7	Employment Exchange			
	a) Employment exchanges	Nos	2006	1
	b) No. of job seekers on live register	Nos	2006	2759
8	Banking			
	a) Bank offices	Nos	2006-07	57
	b) Deposits	Lakh Rs	2006-07	77016
	c) Advances	Lakh Rs	2006-07	33147
9	Education			
	a) Colleges	Nos	2007-08	3
	b) Hr. secondary schools	Nos	2007-08	30
	c) High schools	Nos	2007-08	52
	d) Middle schools	Nos	2007-08	195
	e) Primary schools	Nos	2007-08	430
	f) Total enrollment	Lakh	2007-08	115543
	g) Literacy rate	%age	2001 Census	47.76
	h) No. of teachers	Nos	2006-07	5606
10	Medical Institutions			
	a) Distt. Hospitals	Nos	2006-07	1
	b) Sub Distt. Hospitals	Nos	2006-07	3
	c) P.H.C	Nos	2006-07	26
	d) Other health Instt./ Allopathic Dispensaries health care, family welfare centers and sub centers	Nos	2006-07	181
	e) Bed strength	Nos	2006-07	294
	f) Patient- Dr. ratio	Nos	2006-07	1:3644
11	Villages electrified	Nos	2006-07	539
12	Villages covered Under potable drinking water	Nos	2006-07	539
13	Transport and communication			
	a) Total road length	Kms	2006-07	1191
	b) Surfaced	Kms	2006-07	1152
	c) Un-surfaced	Kms	2006-07	39.65
	d) Post and Telegraph offices	Nos	2006-07	120
	e) Telephone connections	Nos	2006-07	22029
14	Density of population per SqKms	Number	2001 Census	467

15	Urban population	% age	2001 Census	10
16	Literacy	% age	2001 Census	47.76
17	Average live stock per house hold	Number	2001 Census	4
18	%age of villages electrified	% age	2006-07	100
19	Road length per 100 SqKms of area	Kms	2006-07	85
20	villages given potable drinking water	% age	2006-07	100

DISTRICT SRINAGAR

Srinagar district is situated in the centre of Kashmir Valley, is surrounded by five districts. The capital city of Srinagar is located 1730 meters above sea level. Situated at the centre of the Kashmir valley, Srinagar is the most populous district in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and is summer capital of J&K. it is also home to the scenic Dal Lake, a popular tourist destination.

Besides being center of the valley Srinagar is also the hub of Business, Industry and commercial activities. People from all the corners of the valley come here for business purposes and also tourists who come to valley take something from the markets of the Srinagar city as amrk of remembrance.

Srinagar can be reached by Air, through Railway upto Jammu and then by Bus or other road transport services available their. Srnagar is located at adistance of approximately 300Kms from Jammu.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Hazratbal Shrine: The Hazratbal Shrine, which is situated on the left bank of the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. This unmatched reverence is anchored in the love and respect for the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him), whose Moi-e Muqqadas, (the sacred hair) is preserved here. The shrine is known by many names including Hazratbal, Assar-e-Sharief, madinat-us-Sani, Dargah Sharief and Dargah. Sadiq Khan laid out a garden here and constructed a palatial building, Ishrat Mahal or Pleasure House, in 1623. The construction of the present marble structure was started by the Muslim Aquaf Trust headed by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1968 and completed in 1979. The Moi-e-Muqqadas is displayed on various occasions related with the life of the Prophet and his four holy companions.

Shankaracharya Temple: It is located at 1100 ft above surface level of the main city on the Shankaracharya hill, also known as Takht-e-Suleiman. The Shiva temple, as Kalhana believes, was constructed by Raja Gopadatya in 371 B.C. and as such is the oldest shrine in Kashmir. Dogra ruler, Maharaja Gulab Singh, constructed stone stairs upto the temple. In 1925, the temple was electrified. The temple, besides a prominent religious place of Hindus, is of great archaeological importance. The temple commands a magnificent panoramic view of the Srinagar city.

Jama Masjid: It is one of the oldest and the most spacious of all the mosques in Kashmir, situated in the heart of the city. The foundation of the mosque, an architectural wonder was laid by Sultan Sikander in 1398 A.D. The area of the mosque is spacious enough for over thirty thousand people to offer prayers at a time.

Baichuhnun Dunat: The tomb of the mother of Sultan Zain-Ul-Abideen (1420- 70) popularly known as Badshah is a splendid representative piece of the Shahmiri architecture. The monument, situated on the right bank of the river Jhelum near Zaina Kadal is the only one of its kind in and around Kashmir which, compared to the wooden structures of the Shahmiri period, is a wholly brick structure.

Hari Parbat Fort: Another historical monument of Srinagar is the Hari Parbat Fort constructed by Akbar the Great on the top of the Hari Parbat or Koh-e-Maraan hill. The architecture of the Fort is similar to that of the forts in Central Asia.

TOURIST PLACES

Srinagar district has many places of tourist attraction, visited by thousands of nature lovers and pleasure seekers. The Mughal gardens, laid out by kings who had a penchant for the beauty of Kashmir, are some of the few star attractions of the district. These are Shalimar Garden, Cheshma Shahi and Pari Mahal, Dal Lake, Harwan and Nishat Garden.

DISTRICT SRINAGAR AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S. No	Description	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	SqKms	1183 (P)
	Reporting Area	Hect.	51007
	Gross Area Irrigated	Hect.	19715
	Net Area Irrigated	Hect.	14508
	Gross Area Sown	Hect.	25416
	Net Area Sown	Hect.	18825
	Forest Area	SqKms	380
	No. of Land Holdings	No's	87992
	Average Holding Size	Hect.	0.368
2	ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP		
	Tehsils	No's	2
	Revenue Villages	"	134
	Blocks	"	2
	Patwar Halqas	"	62
	Municipalities	"	1(SMC)
3	POPULATION Census 2001		
	Population	Lakh	10.19
4	ROADS AND BUILDINGS		
	Black Topped	Kms	1118.67
	Mettaled		293.40
	Shingled		106.70
	Fair Weather		31.78
	Jeepable		0.00
	Total		1550.55
5	TRADE AND COMMERCE		Nos
	Shops Independent		46132
	Run by Others		4100
	Employment Generation (Hired)		6630
	No. of Commercial Establishments		2798
	Employment (Hired)		4204
	No. of Cinemas		9

	Employment		10
	No. of Hotels and Restaurants		1726
	Employment (Hired)		2221
6	EDUCATION (Govt)		
	No. of Degree Colleges	Nos	9
	Professional Colleges		4
	High and Higher Secondary Schools		104
	Middle Schools		219
	Primary Schools		417
7	HEALTH		
	District Hospitals	Nos	1
	Sub-District Hospitals		3
	Primary Health Centres		24
	Dispensaries		
	i) Allopathic}		15
	ii) Ayurvedic}		NA
	iii) Other Instt. (M.A. C)		8
	Family Welfare Sub-Centres		91
	District Hospitals		1
9	villages provided with safe drinking water	Nos	170

Bed Strength indicated in "Others" include S.M.H.S., Lal Ded, C.D. Hospital, J.L.N.M. Hospital, B&J Chiterjan, Mobile, SKIMS, and Dental Hospital.

DISTRICT SHOPIAN

The Hill District Shopian carved out of District Pulwama in the year 2006 became functional with effect from 01-04-2007. The main purpose is to have a close supervision and effective monitoring of the developmental activities so as to ensure immediate redressal of public grievances and above all the balanced development of the area. Located in the South and South West extremity of Kashmir Valley, Shopian is lying in the close proximity of Pir-Panjial Mountain Range. It is bounded by the District Kulgam on its East and District Budgam on its North-West. It is flanked by District Pulwama in the North and District Rajouri and District Poonch on its South and South-West respectively. Presently the District Shopian is consisting of one Tehsil, One CD Block Shopian and a part of Block Keller, one Municipal Committee, 43 Patwar Halqas and 231 villages only. Shopian is situated at a distance of 51 Kilometers from Srinagar and 20 Kilometers from the District Pulwama. It has decades old connectivity with the Districts of Anantnag and Kulgam. Shopian is located on the famous Mughal Road likely to connect the Jammu Region via Rajouri Poonch with Kashmir Valley shortly.

Agriculture is the main stay of the economy of the District. Main production of the District Shopian is fresh and dry fruits like apples, cherries and walnuts etc. The total area of District Shopian is approximately 30,742 hectares, out of which 19,692 hectares is of cultivable nature. The grazing land is of the order of 2948 hectares and 260.5 hectares are forest land. Remaining 7,841 hectares of land is the land of the other nature. Apple of Shopian is famous throughout the country for its size, colour and taste. Ambri variety of apple is the speciality of the area.

As per the Census of 2001 the total population of the District Shopian is 2.11 lacs comprising various groups of diverse ethnic nature like Gujjars, Pastoons, Dogerwallas, Minels and predominately Kashmiris. About 95% of the population lives in the rural areas.

Shopian Town and the areas located in the foot-hills of Pir-Panchal Range areas the prettiest spots in the valley due to its congenial climate, perennial murmuring water streams, delicious fruits and scenic beauty. The District is very rich in water resources. There is an important Shrine at Pinjoora where the Holly Relic of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) is resting.

The District is economically and educationally backward. Planned efforts are needed for its speedy, integrated and balanced development. Keeping the topography of the District under consideration special attention is required for its development. As per the census report of 2001 only 48% were found literate. The literacy rate among male and female has been noticed as 59% and 35% respectively. The town Shopian is situated on 2146 meters (ASL) above the sea level.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Jama Masjid Shopian: The mosque is said to have been built during the Mughal period. Shopian was an important stopover on the Mughal road across the Pir Panjal used by the Mughals to visit Kashmir. The other important Muslim shrines are situated at Awantipora and Pampore. These are the shrines of Syed Hussan Mantaqui, Mir Mohammad Hamdani and Namat Ullah Shog Baba Sahab.

Asar Sharief Pinjoora Shopian: The shrine is the most revered religious place in the district. The shrine houses the holy relic of Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be upon Him) which is displayed on special occasions associated with the life of the Prophet (PBUH).

DISTRICT SHOPIAN AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	Hectares	30742
2	Tehsils	Nos	1
3	Blocks CD(and a part of block Keller)	Nos	1
4	Municipal committees	Nos	1
5	Patwar Halgas	Nos	43
6	Villages	Nos	231
7	Cultivable area	Hect	19692
8	Grazing land	Hect	2948
9	Forest area	Hect	260.5
10	Other nature	Hect	7841
11	Population	Lakh souls	2.11
12	Rural population	%age	95%
13	Urban population	%age	5%
14	Literacy rate as per census 2001	%age	48%
15	Male literacy	%age	59%
16	Female literacy	%age	35%
17	Altitude from sea level	Meters (ASL)	2146 meters (ASL)

LADAKH REGION

DISTRICT KARGIL

Kargil district carved out of erstwhile Ladakh came into existence in July 1979. It lies in the North-east Of Kashmir Valley at a distance of 205 Kms from Srinagar. 99% of population is schedule tribe. The district has high altitude area in the Country ranging from 8,000 feet's to 18,000fts.above sea level. The district remains cut off from the rest of country from November to May in view of heavy snow fall on National Highway at Zojila pass (Highest peak). People mostly live in rural areas and only 5.3 percent reside in the town. The majority of population is Muslim. The cultivated area in the district is 10,000 hectares as against 19,437 hectares of reporting area. The soil is generally coarse, mixed with stones and gravels. It is alkaline in reaction and organic matter content is very low. The fertility of the soil varies from place to place and the growing season is short. The average rainfall in Kargil is 26 Cms only. The barley is the staple crop of the district. The district presents a composite culture of Balti, Ladakhi, Purki, Dardi, Zanskari and Shia cultured. Irrespective of ethnic identities, all speak the Kargali language with ease.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

The District has one of the oldest civilizations. These tribes are Dards and Baltis. The Baltis are said to be descendents of Sakas a central Asian race. Dards are located in Drass. There is an old stone statue near Drass. General Zorawar Singh while conquering the area via Warwan Pass constructed a fort at proper Kargil.

TOURIST PLACES

Suru Valley and Zanskar in particular are the most beautiful areas and attract large number of tourists. Expeditions to Nun-Kun mainly take off from Panikhar village which is also the base for long treks in the direction of Kashmir and Kishtwar. Zanskar is a favourite destination for tourists and Padum is the centre for hard but rewarding treks to Manali. There is small hermitage of Dzongkhul on way to Umasi La. Statue of Lord Chamba at Wakha Mulbek & Monestry on top of hill rock at Shargole are one of the tourist attracting places in Kargil.

DISTRICT KARGIL AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Magnitude
1	Geographical Area	SqKms	14036
2	Population	Lakh souls	11,9,307
	Male	No	64955
	Female	No	54352
	Rural	No	108650
	Urban	No	10657

3	Schedule caste (SC)	No	139
	Schedule Tribe	No	105377
4	Population Density	Per SqKms	8 per SqKms
5	Villages	Nos	129
	Inhabited villages	Nos	127
	Un-inhabited villages	Nos	2
	Panchayats	Nos	34
6	Tehsil	Nos	2
7	Towns	Nos	1
8	Blocks	Nos	7
9	Live-Stock Population	Lakh	4 Lakhs
10	Forests	SqKms	6 SqKms
11	Literacy rate	% age	19%
12	Bank Branches	Nos	11
13	Sex Ratio	Males per 1000 Females	837

DISTRICT LEH

Although, Leh district is one of the largest districts of the country in terms of area, it has the lowest population density across the entire country. The district borders Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Chinese occupied Kashmir in the North and Northwest respectively, Tibet in the east and Lahoul-Spiti area of Himachal Pradesh in the South. The district of Leh forms the Northern tip of the Indian Sub Continent. According to the Geographical experts, the district has several other features, which make it unique when compared with other parts of the Indian Union. The district is the coldest and most elevated inhabited region in the country with altitude ranging from 2300 meters to 5000 meters.

Leh district is situated roughly between 32° to 36° North latitude and 75° to 80° East longitude.

The district covers approximately an area of 45100 Sq.kms on this side of line of control, which makes it the largest district in the country.

The Indus, the Shayok and the Zaskar rivers flow between the three mountain ranges resulting in the concentration of the population in the valleys in these rivers.

District Leh experience extremes of climate temperature ranges from 30 degree Celsius in the short summer to minus 35 degree Celsius at the height of the winter at some places.



According to the population census of 2001, the district has population of 1, 17, 232 souls among male is 64306 and female is 52926. The projected population of the district in the year 2006 is 133655 persons.

For smooth functioning of the administrative machinery in the district, there are three sub divisions viz Nubra, Changthang and Khaltsi headed by the Sub Divisional Magistrate under the over all control of the Deputy Commissioner / Chief Executive Officer. The District has three Tehsils namely Leh, Khaltsi and Sumoor.

Politically, the district is governed by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill development Council, Leh having a strength of 30 Councilors (26 elected and 04 nominated) which is being headed by the Chairman Chief Executive Councilor (rank of State Cabinet

Minister) who is assisted by four Executive councilors since 1995 working within the frame work of the constitution of India / Jammu and Kashmir.

For uniform development of the district, nine CD blocks namely Leh, Khaltsi, Nyoma, Nubra, Durbook, Kharu, Chuchot, Saspol and Panamic has been created by ending March 2007, out of which the block namely Chuchot, Saspol and Panamic created in the year 2006-07 and not yet properly functional.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Hemis: Situated 40 Kms from Leh, Hemis is the wealthiest, best known and biggest gompa of Ladakh. The annual festival of the gompa is held in summer in honour of Guru Padma Sambhav's birth anniversary. It also has the largest thanka (scroll painting on silk or brocade) in Ladakh which is unfurled once in 12 years. Hemis was built in 1630 A.D. during the reign of Sengge Namgyal and flourished under the Namgyal dynasty;

Alchi: The gompa is situated on the banks of the Indus, 70 Kms from Leh and dates a thousand years back. The gompa is no longer an active, religious centre and is looked after by monks from the Likir monastery.

Spituk: The gompa stands prominently on the top of a hillock 8 Kms from Leh, and commands a panoramic view of the Indus Valley for miles. Many icons of Buddha and five thankas are found in 15th century monastery. There is also a collection of ancient masks, antique arms, and an awe inspiring image of Mahakal.

Phyang : The monastery is situated 17 Kms from Leh on the Leh-Kargil road. It was built by Tashi Namgyal in the later half of the 16th century A.D. and looks like a place from a distance. The gompa belongs to the Red Cap sect of the Buddhists. Hundreds of icons of Buddha are kept on wooden shelves.

They: 15 Kms upstream from Leh. The palace is believed to have been the seat of power of the pre-Tibetan kings. A 7.5 meter high copper statue of Buddha, plated with gold, and the largest of its kind, is installed in the palace.

Thikse: The Thikse monastery is spectacularly situated 19 Kms from Leh. It is one of the largest and architecturally most impressive gompas. The gompa has images, stupas and wall paintings of Buddha which are exquisite.

Jama Masjid: The historical mosque is situated in the heart of Leh town. It was built in 1666-67 A.D. consequent to an agreement between the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and then ruler of Ladakh, Deldan Namgyal.

Leh Palace: The palace is a distinguished monument and a historical building. The nine-storeyed palace was built by the 17th century illustrious ruler of Ladakh Sengge Namgyal.

TOURIST PLACES

Leh is having an airport which connects it to the rest of the country. Besides this there is regular bus service from Srinagar which operates during summer when the Zojila Pass remains open for traffic. This is the time which tourists lookout for. In the year 2002 more than 8 thousand tourists from India and abroad visited Ladakh to capture it's breathtaking and awesome scenery.

Cultural Tourism: Visits to the major Buddhist Monasteries and other cultural or heritage sites are the principal tourist attractions of central Ladakh and Zanskar. Most of the regions principal Gompas are open throughout the day and a caretaker Lama are available to show visitors around. Some of the less visited establishments

have special opening hours, as in the case of Namgyal Tsemo, Shey Palace and the Stok Palace Museum. Most of the monasteries charge a small entrance fee. The monasteries constitute the fountain head of Ladakh Buddhist religion and culture.

Fairs and Festivals of Ladakh also attract a large number of Tourists. Many of the annual festivals of Gumpas take place in winter as it is a relatively idle time. The dance dramas take place in the court yards of Gumpas and Lamas wearing colorful robes and startling masks perform mimes representing various heads of the religion. The biggest and the most famous monastic festivals is of Hemis which falls in late June-July and is dedicated to Padam Sambhava. Other festivals held in summer are of Lama-Yuru, in early July, Phiyang in late July, Tak-Thok after Phiyang and Karsha in Zanskar after Phiyang. Spituk, Stoke, Thiksey, Chemreay and Matho have their festivals in winter.

DISTRICT LEH AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S. No	Description	Reference Year	Unit	Magnitude
1	Geographical area.	2006-07	SqKms	45100
2	Reporting area as per village paper	2006-07	Hect.	51358
5	Tehsil	2006-07	Nos.	3
6	Blocks	2006-07	Nos.	9
7	Panchayats	2006	Nos.	93
8	Inhabited villages	200 I census	Nos.	112
9	Un- inhabited villages.	200 I census	Nos.	1
10	Towns	2001 census	Nos.	1
11	Total Population	200 I census	Nos.	117232
	Male	2001 census	Nos.	64306
	Female	2001 census	Nos.	52926
	Sex ratio	200 I census	Ratio	823
	urban population	2001	Nos.	28639
	Urban population	2001	%	24.43
	Density of population	2001	Per	3
12	Total main workers	2001	Nos.	38776
	Marginal workers	2001	Nos.	19349
	Non-workers	2001	Nos.	59107
13	Total No. of literate persons	2001	Nos.	68278
14	Literacy rate	2001	%	65.30
15	Rank of Leh district in literacy in J&K	2001	Rank	3
16	Per Capita income at current price	2002-03	Rs.	17555
17	COOPERATIVE			
	Cooperative societies	2006-07	Nos.	3
	Membership	2006-07	Lac Nos.	0.17
	Marketing societies	2006-07	Lac Nos.	6
	Marketing of agriculture produce	2006-07	Lac Nos.	569.72
18	ELECTRICITY			
	Village electrified	2006-07	Nos.	112
	Hydal /diesel	2006-07	Nos.	77
	Solar	2006-07	Nos.	35
	Percentage electrified	2006-07	%	100
	Power house	2006-07	Nos.	6
	Installed capacity	2006-07	MW	20.58
19	INDUSTRIES			
	Number of SSI unit registered	2006-07	Nos.	679
	Employment	2006-07	Lac Nos.	1787
20	Education			

Primary	2006-07	Nos.	212
Middle	2006-07	Nos.	89
High/higher secondary	2006-07	Nos.	38
Colleges	2006-07	Nos.	1
21 Health			
District/Sub-District Hospital	2006-07	Nos.	3
Primary health center	2006-07	Nos.	14
Dispensary and PHC	2006-07	Nos.	3
Medical aid center	2006-07	Nos.	99

Note: - The geographical area, excludes the total area of 120849 sq.kms illegally handed over by Pakistan to China and under illegal occupation of China in Leh district.

JAMMU DIVISION

DODA DISTRICT

Doda District was carved out of the erstwhile District Udhampur in the year 1948 and lies amidst in the middle and outer Himalayan ranges of Jammu Region of J&K State. In view of vastness of District and inconvenience being faced by people living in far-flung areas besides making whole area manageable, the State Government in July 2006 trifurcated the District thereby creating two new Districts viz: Ramban and Kishtwar. On its north is Anantnag and is surrounded by District Kishtwar in north-east, Chamba area of Himachal Pradesh in south. District Kathua and Udhampur in south and southwest and District Ramban in west. The total geographical area of the District is approximately 4500 Sq .Kms.

The District is endowed with vast wealth of natural beauty and extensive rich forest areas. The region is surrounded by snow clad lofty mountains from all sides and mighty river Chenab flows through it. The entire District is hilly and mountainous with a few plain and low lying areas. The climate is temperate in places like Bhaderwah and Gandoh and Sub-tropical in areas like Doda and Thathri.

The tentative Population of the New District Doda as per 2001 Census breakup is 3.20 lacs comprising 1, 65,720 males and 1, 54,280 females. The tentative literacy rate for the New District as per 2001 Census breakup stands at 55.05%.

Administratively Doda District has been divided in to 02 Sub Division viz: Bhaderwah and Gandoh, 04 Tehsils viz: Doda, Bhaderwah, Thathri and Gandoh, 08 Community Development Blocks viz: Doda/Ghat, Bhagwah, Assar, Thathri, Gundna, Marmat, Bhaderwah and Gandoh which in turn comprises of 232 Panchayats and 408 villages.

DISTRICT DODA AT GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Units	Ref. Year	Magnitude
1	AREA AND ADM. DIVISION			
	Geographical area	Sq. Kms.	2007-08	4500
	No. of villages	Nos.	-do-	408
	No. of Blocks	-do-	-do-	8
	No. of Panchayats	-do-	-do-	232
	No. of Tehsils	-do-	-do-	4
2	POPULATION			
	Total Population	Lac. Souls	2001	3.20

			Census	
	Total Male	-do-	-do-	1.66
	Total female	-do-	-do-	1.54
	Sex Ratio	Female per thousand 2001 census	903	Males
3	TEHSIL WISE POPULATION	Lac souls	2001 census	
	Bhaderwah	-do-	-do-	0.622
	Doda	-do-	-do-	1.569
	Thathri	-do-	-do-	0.429
	Gandoh	-do-	-do-	0.582
			Total	3.202
4	BLOCK WISE POPULATION			
	Assar	-do-	-do-	0.259
	Doda (Ghat)	-do-	-do-	0.381
	Bhaderwah	-do-	-do-	0.516
	Thathri	-do-	-do-	0.437
	Bhagwah	-do-	-do-	0.336
	Gundana	-do-	-do-	0.253
	Marmat	-do-	-do-	0.227
	Gandoh	-do-	-do-	0.103
			G.Total	3.202
5	Literacy	%age	2001	55.25
6	Health , PHC	Nos	2008	13
	SDH			2
	Sub-units			77
	First aid centers			33
7	Villages with drinking water facility	Nos	2008	124(full)163(partial)
8	Villages electrified	Nos	2008	400
9	Education , primary schools	Nos	2008	560
	Middle schools			178
	High schools			69
	Higher secondary schools			29
	Colleges			3

DISTRICT JAMMU

Jammu District derives its name from the city of Jammu which besides being capital of the state is known as the city of temples. It is believed that Raja Jamboo Lochan who lived in fourteenth century BC originally' founded the city. The Raja had gone out one day for hunting when he happened to witness a tiger and a goat drinking water from one and the same pond. This extraordinary phenomenon set him thinking and he decided to (build a city at this site so that the strong and weak could live together in peace and mutual tolerance. Eventually he founded the city, which came to be known as "Jamboo" after his own name. With the passage of time and due to its frequent use, the pronunciation of the name got slightly distorted and the city, came to be known as Jammu as it is called now.

The District is bounded in the north and north east by the Udhampur District in the east and south-east partly by Tehsil Ramnagar of Udhampur District and partly by Tehsil Samba of Samba District, in the south and south east by Samba District and Sialkot District of Rawalpindi (PAK) and in the north-west by Tehsil Nowshera of District Rajouri and parts of the District Bhimber now under the occupation of Pakistan. District Jammu falls in sub-mountainous region at the foothills of the Himalayas. Shivalik range rise gradually in the north part of the District and merges with the Indo-Gangetic plains in the south. Jammu city is at elevation of 1030 feet above the sea level. The District comprises four Tehsils namely Jammu, R.S. Pura, Akhnoor and Bishnah. The entire District can be divided in to two distinct portions. The area forming north of Jammu-Chenab road and Jammu-Pathankot which is known as Kandi area is comparatively under developed and is mostly rain fed. The area south of these roads is largely fed by canal and tube wells for irrigation purposes and is relatively more prosperous. As per the census of 2001, Jammu District consists of 1192 villages, out of which 1054 village are inhabited. In the District, there are 8 CD & NES Blocks at present as two blocks namely Samba and Vijaypur have been included in newly create (District Samba)

Jammu District has a sub-tropical climate with hot and dry climate in summer and cold climate in winter. Being in the foothills of the mountains, nights are generally cooler than what they are in the neighboring area of Punjab. Minimum and Maximum temperature is around 4 Celsius and 47 Celsius respectively. Rainy season usually starts from the end of June or the beginning of July. Average rainfall in the District is about 1246 mm.

As per the census of 2001, the District has a population of 13.43 Lakh. Schedule Caste population in the District as percentage of total population works out to be 28.36%. The average density of population in the District as per census of 2001 is 508 persons per square kilometer.

The Jammu District comprises of 846 villages. In 2002-03, the net area sown was 1.07 Lakh Hectares. Adding to it, the area sown more than once which was of the order of 0.93 Lakh Hectares, the gross cultivated area works out to be 5.33 Lakh Hectares. Similarly, the gross irrigated area was 0.98 Lakh Hectares. Out of which net irrigated area was only 0.54 Lakh Hectares.

According to census of 2001, the percentage of main workers and marginal workers to the total population of the District was 39%. About 47% of the workers depend on Agriculture as cultivators and agriculture labourers for their livelihood.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Bahu Fort: A renowned historical temple of Goddess Mahakali popularly known as Bawe-Wali Mata. The fort overlooks the river Tawi flowing placidly down the Jammu City.

Mubarak Mandi complex: The complex is housing 76 government offices and courts. The complex has a history as old as 150 years back. It was a royal residence of Dogra rulers. The palaces are built as a group of buildings around the courtyard. Successive Dogra rulers added to the complex in size. The buildings were used as the residences of the royal Dogra families. The complex has halls and galleries which were used for official functions and public events.

Rani charak Mahal: Rani Charak Mahal is also located on river side, connected with Toshakhana on one side.

Amar Mahal Museum: A beautiful palace of red sand stone which stands amidst most

picturesque horizons of Jammu. Once the residential palace of Raja Amar Singh, the palace has been converted into a museum and is looked after by Hari Tara Charitable trust. The museum still has the golden throne on which Maharaja used to sit, which is made up of 120Kg pure. The museum has a gallery of paintings known as the NALDAMYANT and a library in which about 25,000 books on various subjects and disciplines have been presented.

Ziarat Baba Buddha Shah: Located in the outskirts of Jammu city at a distance of about 8 Kms towards the acrodrome at Satwari. This shrine is very popular among all sections of society. Baba Buddan Shah was borne at Talwandi in Punjab, and it is said that another shrine of this Peer is located at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab.

Ziarat Baba Roshan Shah Wali: An Arabian faquir in 6th century travelled the Asian peninsula and came to Jammu to settle at the plateau outside the town in a dense forest. The exceptionally large grave built on the slope of Gumat speaks about his lofty personality.

Ziarat Peer Mitha: In the heart of Jammu city we find a magnificent tomb alongwith a mosque. The Ziarat is popularly known as Peer Mitha. Even the locality around it is named after the Ziarat. The ziarat became popular among the masses as Pir Mitha as he accepted a pinch of sugar among the offerings.

Paanj Peer: This dargah is situated at a little distance from the Maharaja's palace on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The place is as known because of the residence of five peers (holymen), lived here and dedicated themselves to the meditation.

Dargah Garib Shah: This dargah is located at Samba. The Peer had immense spiritual powers and he is included in those Muslim saints who had a large number of devotees from all the faiths and religions. Garib Shah's samadhi is looked after by the local Hindus.

Peer Khoh: This cave shrine of Lord Shiva also known as Jamawant cave is said to be the oldest historic place in the Shivalik region. Located amidst Igneous rocks and acacia jungle in North-East of Jammu city on the side of circular road above Tawi river, the history of the cave is said to be connected with epic-age.

Aap Shanbhu Temple Sathrian: Is a temple situated at Sathrian in Roopnagar area of Jammu city. The stone temperaturele has self-made stone Lingam. According to a legend, in the times immemorial this entire place was an uninhabited jungle, the milky cows and buffaloes used to come to the Lingam after grazing and shed entire milk on the Lingam.

Raghunath Temple: Located in the heart of Jammu city, this complex is the most splendid temple complex in Northern India. The main commercial market of Jammu is named after the temple complex. The complex consists of 17 temples. However, it was named after the main temple of Lord Rama, Sita Mata and Lakshman as the Dogra dynasty is believed to be the descendant of Lord Rama. There is hardly any image of deity which is not represented in the temple complex.

Gadhadhari Temple: Maharaja Gulab Singh also constructed a Gadhadhari temple near his palace (Mubarak Mandi) soon after becoming the ruler of the State. The temple has two life size statues of Narayana and Lakshmi.

Ranbireshwar Temple: It is the biggest Shiva temple in North India. Got constructed by the Dogra rulers, this temple have the biggest Lingam of 7 ft in black stone. In two big halls, there are 1.25 lakh bona (Small) Lingam brought from Narmadda. There are huge images of Ganesha, Kartikeya and Nandi Bull. This temple was

constructed by Maharaja Ranbir Singh.

Panchbakhter temple: This is one of the oldest shiva temple of Jammu.

Purmandal: It is about 40kms from Jammu city. It is called little Kashi and is located on the banks of holy Devika river considered as sacred as Ganges. Large number of people visits the place on Shivratri and Chaitra Chaudashi.

Nagbani: It is historic place and there is a temple of Nagdevta. Presently Maharaj HariSingh Agricultural Collegiate School is located at the place of Royal Arsenal.

Gurudwara Sh. Guru Nanak Devji: It is situated in upper bazaar near Mubarak mandi complex. It has 3ft tall white colored marble statue of Guru Nank Devji. Maharaja Partap Singh is said to have installed the statue.

Samadhi Maharani Chand Kour: This Samadhi is situated at Gumat near River Tawi. This is associated with Maharani Chand Kour who was the wife of Sardar Kharak Singh the eldest son of Maharaj Ranjit Singh. He sat on the throne after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Chichi Mata: It is situated near Samba and is popularly known as Pehia Darshan of Vaishno Devi pilgrims.

TOURIST PLACES

The Tourist Places are Jhajjar Kotli, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jhiri, Surinsar and Mansar Lakes.

DISTRICT JAMMU AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.NO	Item	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	SqKms	2184
2	Population	Lakhs	13.43
3	Population density	Persons per SqKms	508
4	Villages	Nos	810
5	Tehsils	Nos	4
6	Towns	Nos	13
7	Panchayats	Nos	202
8	Blocks	Nos	8
9	Villages electrified	Nos	704
10	Villages with drinking water	Nos	704
11	Literacy rate (Census 2001)	%age	77.3
12	Bank branches	Nos	188
13	Post offices	Nos	223
14	Languages spoken	Nos	(3) Dogri Urdu, Hindi

DISTRICT KATHUA

Known as Gateway of Jammu & Kashmir State, Kathua district lies in South-East of the State. It is located 32°17' to 32°55' north latitude and 75°32' to 75° 76' east longitude. The district covers 1.9 percent of the total area of the State. The sex ratio as per 1981 census was 917 females per 1000 males. For administrative, the district has been divided into four tehsils namely Kathua, Hiranagar, Basholi and Billawar. District broadly comprises three distinct zones. These can be described as border, Kandi and hilly areas. The two main rivers of the district are Ravi and Ujh which are major contributors to the prestigious Ravi-Tawi Irrigation Complex. As regards the

main ethnic groups, Hindus constitutes 91% of the district while Muslims form 7% and Sikh 2% of the population. The most important minerals in the district is the cement grade lime stone in Basholi. Dogri is the main language spoken by the people of the district. There are a number of Monuments in the district like towering forts and magnificent places at Kathua, Lakhanpur, Jasmergarh (Hiranagar), Jasrota, Ramkote, Bhadu and Basholi.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Jasrota : Was founded by Raja Jas Dev of Jammu in 1019 A.D. Jasrotias ruled this state upto 1834 A.D., when it was given to Raja Hira Singh.

Billawar: Tehsil headquarter town of the district is believed to be capital. In earlier times Billawar is known as Vallapura, the hilly state finds mention in the Rajatarangni as capital of the state till 1630 A.D.

Mankote: Was founded by Raja Manak Dev, a contemporary of Raja Narsingh Dev of Jammu (1272-1314 A.D.). It was renamed by Raja Suchet Singh (1822-43) as Ramkote.

Lakhanpur: Raja Sangram Singh founded Lakhanpur state. Lakhanpur is known as the gateway of Jammu & Kashmir.

Bhadu: A prominent town of Billawar Tehsil. Bhadu town is situated on Bhini nallah, a tributary of Ujh river.

Tirikote: Near Jasrota and Jandi near Hiranagar were also important states/principalities in the district.

TOURIST PLACES

The Tourist Places are Basholi, Sarthal, Bani, Billwar, Ujh, Banjal, Sukarala Mata, Peer Fazal Shah, Dhar Mahanpur and Banjal etc.

DISTRICT KATHUA AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Refrence year	Magnitude
1	Area in SqKms	Census 2001	2502
	No. of Tehsils	"	5
	No. of Blocks	"	9
	No. of Panchayats	"	245
	No. of villages	"	512
2	Population	Census 2001	534455
	Density of population (2001 Census)	"	204 persons per SqKms
	Sex ratio as per (2001 Census)	"	898
3	No. of households	Census 2001	89347
	Rural Households	"	74712
	Urban Households	"	14635
4	Educational institutions	"	948
	No. of Literates	"	282210
	Male Literates	Census 2001	171277
	Female Literates	"	110933
5	Health Institutions	"	361
6	Road length	"	784 Kms
7	Industrial units registered	"	3476
8	Live stock population	Census 2001	2.81 lakh

9	Gross area sown	"	119849 Hect
	Gross area irrigated	"	32752 Hect
10	Villages electrified	Census 2001	548
	Villages with drinking water	"	552
11	Bank branches	"	60
12	Principle crop	"	Wheat, Rice, Maize
13	Post office	Census 2001	129

KISHTWAR DISTRICT

District Kishtwar is spread over a large area ranging from the borders of Himachal Pradesh on South, Ladakh on East and Kashmir valley (District Anantnag) on North side. The erstwhile District Doda was spread over an area of around 11691 SqKms. Out of which the erstwhile Sub-Division(Now) District Kishtwar amounted to more than 2/3rd (7737 Sq Kms) of the total area of the erstwhile District Doda.

District Kishtwar has been created vide Govt. Order NO: 233-GAD OF 2007 Dated:- 06-03-2007, and formed major part of the erstwhile District Doda. Kishtwar Tehsil was upgraded to the level of Sub-Division In 1973. The Sub-Division was administered by the institution of Sub Divisional Magistrate from its creation i.e. 1973 up to 31-03-2007. After a spell of around 34 years, this Historical Decision has been taken by the Govt. during 2007 for creation and establishment of District Kishtwar. District Kishtwar as on date comprises of the following 4 Tehsils namely Kishtwar, Chatroo, Paddar, Marwah and 8 Blocks namely Kishtwar, Inderwal, Drabshalla, Nagseni, Paddar, Dachhan, Warwan & Marwah consisting of 41 Patwar Halqas, 134 Panchayats. The Total Population as per Census 2001 is 1, 92, 009.

DISTRICT KISHTWAR AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	Sqkms	7737
2	Tehsils	Nos	4
3	Niabats	Nos	8
4	G.Q. Circle	Nos	10
5	Patwar Halqas	Nos	41
6	Villages	Nos	157
7	Panchayats	Nos	134
8	Blocks	Nos	8
9	Population(census 2001)	Lakh souls	190009
10	Tehsil-wise population (prepared by Revenue Deptt. In 2003)		
11	Kishtwar	Lakh souls	121774
12	Marwah	-do-	38002
13	Chatroo	-do-	37042
14	Paddar	-do-	22442
	G. total	-do-	219560
15	Average growth	%age	4-6%

DISTRICT POONCH

District Poonch is 240 Kms away from the Winter Capital Jammu, and located in the foot-hills of Pir Panchal range. This District of State is bounded by Actual Line of

Control on the North and North-Western sides. District Rajouri falls on its Southern side and on its Northern and North East corner district Pulwama and Baramulla are located.

This district is popularly known as "Mini Kashmir" due to its geography. The whole area is comprised of mountainous-ranges, snow covered peaks, beautiful valley, lush green pastures, gushing streams, crystal clear lakes, water falls etc. The District falls in sub tropical / temperate zones.

There is a bit hot climate in Mendhar while the climate of Mandi and Surankote / Bufliaz blocks resembles the cool climatic conditions of Kashmir valley. Strong monsoon currents are experienced in the District. The average rainfall is about 60 mm per year. The name of Poonch is derived from great Reshi "Pulasta" the grand father of Raja Ravana of Sri Lanka who mediated on this soil for years together. Natives believe that Lord Rama and Pandavas also visited this place. The first independent principality was established by a local horse-trader "Nara" who declared himself as the Raja of Poonch in 850 A.D. He and his descendents ruled Poonch up to 1323 A.D. During the rule of Sultans of Kashmir, Poonch became the part of outer Province (comprising Nowshera and Rajouri) under the name of Bhaya Desha- Vinah. In 1596 A.D, Mughal Emperor, Akbar, while going to Kashmir, halted at Kahota and nominated a local Sardar Siraj-ud-Din as Raja of Poonch. Siraj-ud-Din and his descendents ruled Poonch upto 1798 AD when a Gujjar Minister Ruh-Ullah Khan Sangu of Poonch Darbar revolted and became the ruler of Poonch and ruled this area up to 1819 A.D. In 1819 A.D Maharaja Ranjeet Singh while conquering Kashmir captured Poonch also. In this way, Poonch remained the part of Khalsa Darbar Lahore upto 1850 AD. Dogra Raja Moti Singh laid foundation of Dogra Raj in Poonch principality. Dogra Rajas Moti Singh, Baldev Singh, Sukhdev Singh and Jagat Dev Singh ruled Poonch Principality upto 1940 A.D. After the death of Raja Jagat Dev Singh in 1940 AD, Sardar Abdul Qayoom Khan became the Administrator and ruled Poonch Principality upto 1946 on the orders of Kashmir Government. During the happening of 1947, Bhim Sain was the Administrator of this area.

Before 1947, Poonch Principality comprised of four Tehsils namely Haveli, Mendhar, Bagh and Sadnuti. But due to happening of 1947, two and a half Tehsils of Poonch Principality went under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. Therefore, the remaining one and half Tehsil were merged with Rajouri area and a District was created under the name of Rajouri-Poonch District. This system continued up to 1967. On 22nd September 1967, Jammu and Kashmir Government bifurcated Rajouri and Poonch into two separate Districts namely District Rajouri and District Poonch to facilitate the process of development and better supervision of economic activities in this area. In this way, Poonch emerged as the smallest and remotest District of the State.

Presently, District Poonch comprises of 178 villages including 5 un-inhabited villages, 192 Panchayats, 51 Patwar Halqas, 12 Girdawari Circles, 08 Niabats, 06 blocks, 4 Tehsils and 190993 khasra numbers. The total number of house-holds is about 46000.

A Total area of the district is 115010.88 Hectts. Out of which cultivable area is 28768 Hect and net area sown is 27500 Hectts while as area under double cropping worked out to be 18237 Hect approximately. On the other hand, the forest area is 34051.45 Hectts. But most of the forest area is either devoid or encroached by the nearby cultivators. There are 36796 land holdings. The average size of holding is 0.94 Hects.

As per census 2001, the total population of the district was 3.72 lacs. Out of which 1.90 lacs are male and 1.82 lacs are female. The literacy rate is 51.07% (Male 65.41%, Female 35.30%). As per the 2001 census, the density of population was

2.11 per SqKms. The decadal growth rate is 31.27%. There are 73.76% cultivators, 4.04 % agriculture labourers and persons belonging to Muslim community are 87%, Hindus are 6% while Sikhs are 7% out of total population.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Buddha Amarnath: Twenty five Kms in the north east of Poonch town is situated an ancient temple of Lord Shiva on the left bank of Pulsta stream. The area is known as Rajpura mandi two Kms above mandi village. This is a unique Shiva Temple which is located on the foot hill and not on the hilltop and secondly the Shivaling of white stone is not self-made. This shrine is said to be older than of Amarnathji of Kashmir. Thousands of people visit on Rakhsa Bandhan.

Ramkund: Another well known shrine located about 68 Kms from Poonch town is that of Ram Kund. Believed to be of Mahabharat period, it is just 11 Kms away from Mendhar. The temple was said to be constructed by Rája Lalitaditya while others believe that Raja renovated it, and originally it was constructed by Lord Rama when he was on his way to Kashmir. There are three springs. People take bath on first of bright half of Chaitra.

Ziarat Sain: Situated in village Guntrian, 10 Kms from Poonch, the Ziarat of saint Sain Mira Sahib is a popular pilgrim centre, Hundreds of devotees visit this Ziarat.

Nangali Sahib: Nangali Sahib Gurudwara is situated on the left bank of Drungli Nallah, which is four Kms away from Poonch City. This gurudwara was established by Sant Bhai Mela Singh who is said to have visited this shrine in 1810 A.D. when he was on his way to conquer Kashmir.

Ziarat Chhotay Shah: Located 58 Kms away from Poonch and 4 Kms from Mendhar this Ziarat is situated in the village Sakhimaidan. Hundreds of pilgrims come to this place every day.

TOURIST PLACES:

There are several beautiful spots on the foothill of Pir Panchal mountain range. These are: Noori Chamb, Buffliaz, Loran, Behramgala, Girgen, Poonch Fort and Krishna Ghati etc.

DISTRICT POONCH AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Item	Unit	Ref. year	Magnitude
1	Total area	Hect	2005-06	115010.88
	Cultivable area			31000
	Net area sown			27500
	Forest area			34051.45
2	Towns	Nos	2005-06	01
3	Inhabited Villages		2005-06	173
	Uninhabited			05
	Total			178
4	Blocks		2005-06	06
	Tehsils			04
	Panchayats	Nos	2005-06	192
	Elected panches			1028
5	Total Population Census	Lac No	2001	3.72
	a. Male			1.90

	b. Female			1.82
6	Rural and Urban Population	Lac No	2001	3.72
	a. Rural			3.49
	b. Urban			0.23
7	Scheduled caste	Lac No		0.003
	Scheduled Tribe	do		1.49
8	Growth rate (decadal)	%age		31.27
9	Literacy rate	%age		51.07
	a. Male			65.41
	b. Female			35.30
10	Health Institutions	Nos	2005-06	165
	a. Distt. Hospitals			01
	b. Sub Distt. Hospitals			03
	c. PHCs			17
	d. Sub centres			101
	e. Allopathic dispensaries			15
	f. Ayurvedic Dispensaries			18
	g. Medical aid centres			10
11	Educational Institutions	Nos	2005-06	779
	a. University Campus (PG Classes)			01
	b. Professional College (B.Ed. College)			01
	c. Degree college			03 (02 Govt.,
	d. H.S.S			29 (24 Govt.,
	e. HSS			58 (45 Govt.,
	f. M.S			355(304 Govt.,
	g. P.S			654(578 Gov t.,
	h. EGS centers			468
	i. Mukhtabs (Govt. Aided)			8
	j. Total no. of Private institutions			146
15	I. T.Is		2005-06	03
16	Post Offices			62
17	Bank branches			28
18	Road length			
	a. Black topped	Kms	2005-06	127.73
	b. Metalled			29.70
	c. Shingled			28.05
	d. Fair weather			81.68

DISTRICT RAJOURI

As per 2001 Census, the total population is 4.83 lakh, which works out as 4.75% of the total population of the J&K State. The urban population is 0.33 lakh (6.9%) and the rural population figures at 4.50 lakh (93.09%). The density of the population is 182 persons per sq km. The schedule castes represent 8% of the population while Gujjar and Bakerwals represent 33% of the population of the District. .

The District derives its name from Rajouri town which itself has been historically

known as Rajpuri. To facilitate the process of development and better supervision of economic activities, Rajouri was carved out as separate District from the erstwhile Poonch District in 1968. The District has an area of 2630 SqKms with peculiar physical features. The District is situated in the west of Jammu Division and is surrounded by the Poonch, Udhampur and Jammu Districts.

District Rajouri is 154 km away from Winter Capital Jammu. It is located in the foot hills of Peer Panchal range. The District is bounded in the East by the Districts Udhampur and Jammu, Line of actual control passes on the southern side, on the West by Poonch District and Pulwama District is on the North. The climate varies from semitropical in the Southern part comprising Nowshera, Sunderbani and Kalakote to temperate in the mountainous Northern part comprising the area of Rajouri, Thannamandi, Darhal, Kalakote and Koteranka Tehsils of the District. The average rainfall is 500 mm and average temperature varies from 7.42 degree Celsius to 37.4 degree Celsius.



The people of various faiths, castes and creeds are living peacefully and in cordial atmosphere in the District. Races like Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis, Punjabis, Kashmiris and Dogras inhabit in various parts of the District. Gujjars are mostly residing on the slopes of the mountains. They are having small pieces of land for cultivation, Kachha houses to live in and cattle rearing are their main stay of livelihood.

Bakerwals are the off shoots of the Gujjars. They are having linguistic, religious and cultural similarities with Gujjars, but they are nomadic tribes, most of them rear herds of goats and flocks of sheep. They are scattered in the District and migrate from one place to another in search of pastures for their cattle.

Paharis inhabit in most of the villages of the District apart from NACs. They are dominating the population of the District. Although, the name "Pahari" means 'Mountaineers' yet it is confined to those people whose mother-tongue is Pahari dialect. They are Hindus, Muslims & Sikhs, whose cultural affinity and language is binding strength of their composite cultural heritage. Their mother-tongue is great cohesive force.

Apart from this, Dogri speaking people also inhabit in some pockets of Sunderbani, Kalakote and Nowshera, while some Kashmiri families are residing in Thannamandi, Behrote and upper reaches of Budhal. But, all these ethenics groups have lost their separate cultural identity and have become the part of Pahari culture.

Rajouri District has been divided into eight blocks and seven Tehsil. There are four towns viz Rajouri, Thannamandi, Sunderbani and Nowshera and there are four assembly segments viz; Rajouri, Darhal, Nowshera and Kalakote.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Thannamandi: This is an important historical place from the time of Mughals who used to stay here during journey from Delhi to Kashmir and vice versa. The climate of this place is very charming and infact a health resort. It is also famous for its artistic wooden products. The famous shrine of Shahdara Sharief is 6 Kms from this place.

Dhanidhar Fort: It is a historical monument located on a hill in the vicinity of Rajouri town. This fort was probably constructed by Mughal King during the reign of Emperor Jahangir nearly 400 years back. It is just 2 Kms away from Rajouri presenting panoramic and impressive view of the entire area.

Usman Memorial: Usman Memorial has been constructed at Jhangar in the memory of Brig. Usman who was mainly responsible for freeing the captured area around Jhangar. After having captured this strategic area, Brig. Usman convened a conference of army officer's to decide future course of action. Meanwhile, he fell to heavy shelling of the enemy on 3rd July 1948. This great memorial is maintained by the Infantry Unit located at Jhangar. The heroic deeds of army men as well as civilians who died while fighting in this area are commemorated every year on 3rd of July as "Jhangar Day".

Balidan Bhawan: This Bhawan is a memoir of great sacrifices made by the people of Rajouri during 1947-48. On the night of Diwali in October-November 1947, the Pakistani marauders forcibly captured the town when Indian army was operating in other parts of the district. The marauders mercilessly put to death thousands of men and women, old and young, infants and children and plundered the town in lust of wealth and booty. The Indian army liberated the town on 13th April, 1948 the day of Baisakhi festival. The Bhawan since then has been dedicated to the sacrifices of those heroes and was given the name of Balidan Bhawan.

War Memorial: It has been raised at Gujjar Mandi Chowk in Ralouri Township. Rajouri was liberated by the Indian army on 13th April 1948. Major General Kulwant Singh launched an attack against Pakistani forces who had converted the site of Present airfield into a slaughter ground.

Hall of Fame: On the top of the mound, the great memorial Hall of Fame has been constructed in commemoration of the heroic deeds of those who had laid down their lives for the sake of their motherland in the sectors of Rajouri and Poonch.

TOURIST PLACES

The district abounds in places which have immense pilgrim essence and tourist attraction. Some of these are as under: Nao Gazi Ziarat, Mangla Goddess, Shahdara Sharif, Gum Sar, Chandan Sar, Samot Sar and Chingus.

DISTRICT RAJOURI AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Item	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	SqKms	2630 SqKms
2	Population	Lakh souls	483284 lakh souls
3	Population density	SqKms	182 per SqKm
4	Villages	Nos	381 (375 inhabited)
5	Tehsils	Nos	7

6	Towns	Nos	4
7	Panchayats	Nos	77
8	Blocks	Nos	8
9	Gross area sown	Hect	77424 Hect
10	Forests	SqKms	1304 SqKms
11	Educational Institutions	Nos	955
12	Health Institutions	Nos	193(including ISM)
13	Villages electrified	Nos	337
14	Villages with drinking water	Nos	376
15	Literacy rate	%age	57.65%
16	Bank branches	Nos	49
17	Principle crop	-	Maize
18	Sex Ratio	Females/1000 males	878
19	Higher secondary schools	Nos	41
	High schools	Nos	73
	Middle schools	Nos	376
	Primary schools	Nos	649
20	Bank branches	Nos	50
21	Anganwari Centers	Nos	547

DISTRICT RAMBAN

Going by the legends of history as came to be recorded in Revenue record, the old name of Ramban was "Nashban" which sounded unpleasant to the delicate ears of Maharaja Gulab Singh who renamed it as "Ramban".

Ramban is located at 33°14' N and 75°17' E longitudes with an altitude of 1000 M (ASL). It is spread over an area of about 1345.38 sq km with 2.14 lacs population. Ramban used to be part of erstwhile District Doda Which had the distinction of being second most largest District of the state because of its gigantic size but exceptionally unique and most difficult of all other Districts because of its typical Himalayan position and hilly terrain. Splitting of erstwhile district Doda into three new districts of Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda came to be seen as great administrative requirement of the time It has come to be seen as a land mark decision in the history of Jammu & Kashmir governance to re-organize the huge administrative units to make them compatible with the aspiration of the people. The revolutionary idea which culminates in the creation of eight new districts represents visionary insights and sincerity of purpose of the state leadership to provide effective and vibrant administration and better avenues of development to the people of the state. Ramban along with seven other newly created districts of the state have been the out come of this great revolutionary step towards revamping the state administration. It was yet another land mark in the history of state that all the eight new districts came to be operationalised on one historic date of 01-04-2007.

The boundary lines of new district have come to be drawn from Patnitop on its south, Assar on its East, Gool on its west, and Banihal on its north. As per latest census, the schedule caste and schedule tribe population constitute about 4.42% and 14.25% respectively of the total population. The density of population in the district is 167 per Sq.km. The District Ramban comprises of 127 Revenue villages out of which 2 villages namely Dhar Shivgarh (Ramban Tehsil) and Jagir Namdhar (Banihal Tehsil) are un-inhabited. The villages are grouped into eighty numbers of Panchayats, 04 CD

blocks and 02 Tehsils. The District is likely to be divided into more administrative units because of its big size. The climate of the District varies according to altitude. The temperature rises as high as 42°C in the low lying areas located in between steep Mountains and seldom goes below 1.5 °C in the high altitude areas. The district is all mountainous with very difficult, rough terrain. It is estimated that 90% of the population of the district is rural based which depends mostly on Agriculture. The farmers have very small holding ranging from 1-2 Hects. Irrigated land area comes to 1400 Hects which forms 1.04% of the total cultivable area. The working season in a year remains restricted to eight months because of typical weather conditions of the district. The lack of communication facilities in the hilly and inaccessible areas has led to high cost of construction and execution of development programmes. This has resulted in slowing down the pace of development in the district. The disturbed conditions of law and order have also taken a toll of developmental activities mostly in the areas which are militancy infested. The scarce financial resources also being one of the reasons for slow pace of development.

DISTRICT RAMBAN AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Item	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	SqKms	1345.38
2	Population	Lakh souls	2.14
3	SC population	%age	4.42%
4	ST population	%age	14.25%
5	Density of population	Per SqKms	167 per SqKms
6	Villages (revenue)	Nos	127
7	Un-inhabited villages	Nos	2
8	Panchayats	Nos	8
9	CD Blocks	Nos	4
10	Towns	Nos	3
11	Tehsils	Nos	2
12	Rural population	%age	90%
13	Irrigated area	Hect	1528
14	Cultivable area	%age	1.04%
15	villages connected by roads	Nos	41
	villages not connected by roads	Nos	72
16	villages covered by electricity	Nos	116
	Villages covered by electricity where electricity supply is available for less than 6 hrs. a day	Nos	112
17	villages covered by primary schools	Nos	112
	villages not covered by primary schools	Nos	04
	High schools/ Hr. Sec. schools Govt./ Pvt	Nos	49
18	Colleges Govt./Pvt.	Nos	1
19	Dispensaries	Nos	11
	First aid centers	Nos	37
	Villages not covered by dispensaries & first aid centers	Nos	31
	Dispensaries without qualified doctors	Nos	0
	PHC	Nos	7

	Shortage of doctors in PHC	Nos	7
	District & Sub-district hospitals	Nos	03
	Vacancies of doctors in hospitals	Nos	14
20	Villages AWC's have been established	Nos	106
	Villages without AWC's	Nos	10
21	Villages covered by portable drinking water	Nos	Nil
	Villages not covered by portable drinking water	Nos	116
22	Animal husbandry Centers & Sub-Centers	Nos	54
	Sheep husbandry & Sub-Centers	Nos	38
23	Handicraft & Handloom training Centers	Nos	07

DISTRICT REASI

District Reasi is one amongst the newly created Districts in the state. It is predominantly a hilly region. Administratively, the district is divided into two sub-divisions- Reasi and Mahore, which is further divided into nine Niabats. The district has 40 Patwar Halqas and 257 villages. On the developmental side, it has four NES blocks- Reasi, Pouni, Arnas and Mahore and 147 Panchayats, which includes 67 new Panchayats. The district has varied agro-climatic conditions, ranging from sub-tropical to semi-temperate. The district is flanked by District Jammu in the South, District Rajouri in the west, District Udhampur in the East; the middle Himalayan ranges overlook the District on its northern fringes. Majority of the population resides in the hilly areas, which is largely under developed. Primary occupation of the people is agriculture. Total population of the district is nearly 2.471 lacs- 20% of this is ST, and nearly 10% is SC population. Besides the district have 2 Municipal committees, at Katra and Reasi.

Agriculture sector is contributing towards the economic upliftment of about 80% rural population of the district. The district has a varied agro climatic conditions ranging from sub-tropical, sub-temperate to temperate and is suitable for cultivation of different types of sub-tropical and temperate fruits. Parts of Reasi, Pouni, and Arnas blocks fall under subtropical zones.

TOURIST PLACES

From tourist point of view, the district has certain places of attraction as:-

- a) *Katra- Mata Vaishno Devi*
- b) *Shri Shiv Khori*
- c) *Salal Hydro-Electrical Project*
- d) *Sehad Baba*
- e) *Ziarat Baji Ismail Sahib*
- f) *Baba Dhansar*
- g) *Thanpal*
- h) *Baba Aghar Jitto*
- i) *Dera Baba Banda Bahadur*

Reasi Fort: It is claimed that this fort in Reasi was either built or associated with greatest Dogra warrior Gen. Zorawar Singh and is the main place of attraction for the tourists who come to visit the Reasi.

DISTRICT REASI AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Item	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	Sq Km	1700
2	Tehsils	No	2
3	Sub-divisions	Nos	2
4	Niabats	Nos	9
5	Patwar Halqas	Nos	40
6	Villages	Nos	257
7	Population	Lakhs souls	2.471
8	ST population	%age	20%
9	SC population	%age	10%
10	Municipal communities	Nos	2
11	Blocks (NES)	Nos	4 (Reasi, Pouni, Arnas, Mahore)
12	Panchayat Halqas	Nos	147(includes 67 new Panchayats)

DISTRICT SAMBA

It is said that Samba was principality established somewhere in 1400 AD. As per folklore Malh Dev, the younger son of Rai Saidu of Lakhanpur was the founder of Samba principality, who married into the family of Ghotar a local tribesman. After his marriage he stayed at Samba and made himself the master of the tract with Samba as its capital. Samba ultimately came under the supremacy of Jammu, during the period of Hari Dev, in 1816 AD and in 1846 AD it became an integral part of the J&K State.

Vide Government order no.1345-GAD of 2006 dated 27.10.2006, among other districts, district Samba came into operation. It comprises 382 villages as per the notification issued by the Govt. under SRO No.185 dated 22 of May 2007. These villages have been organized into 55 Patwar Halqas, and 99 Panchayats. Out of 382 villages, 62 villages have been detached from Tehsil Hiranagar of district Kathua and one village from Tehsil Majalta of District Udhampur. Besides, four urban towns viz Samba, Vijaypur, Ramgarh and Bari Brahmna are also the part of this district

Samba town is situated on range of Shivalik hills alongside the National Highway 1-A / on the bank of river Basantar at a distance of forty Kms from Jammu city. District Samba is bounded by District Udhampur in the North, District Kathua in the East, Tehsil Jammu and Bishnah of District Jammu in the west, while on the southern side it has International Border with Pakistan. About two third of the area of district Samba is Kandi & rain fed. The area on southern side downside the National highway is irrigated through Ravi Tawi Irrigation canal network and contributing towards major cereals crop and vegetable cultivation as special focus has been assigned by the govt. of India, Ministry of Water Resources through Command Area Development Department.

A modern industrial complex is established on the bank of river Basantar at Samba named as Industrial Growth Centre. A number of small & medium industrial units have been established and have provided job opportunities not only to the educated unemployed youths, but also to the laborers, skilled and un-skilled by starting their own ventures in the private sector. Samba situated at National Highway of India is emerging as an industrial hub in the state.

To protect the traditional art of the area, the Government has established a Handloom Development Project at Samba and is providing employment opportunities

to a large number of traditional weavers of Samba town and they are earning their livelihood by way of weaving of clothes for the project. Samba is also famous in traditional Calico Printing, where local made dyes are used for printing locally weaved cotton fabric.

Samba district has three religious tourism spots viz Mansar, Purnandal and Utterbani. The brief of which is discussed as under:

Mansar Lake is situated on the Samba – Udampur Road at a distance of twenty two Kms from Samba. The Mansar Lake is surrounded by small hills with different Hindu Gods and Goddesses Temples and also attracts a large number of tourists as the religious pilgrims in the area. A tourist complex comprising five tourist huts and rooms situated on the bank of the Lake provides accommodation to the tourists /visitors. The State Government has also established development authority known as Suransar-Mansar Development Authority which is responsible for implementation of tourism developmental projects in all the four tourist places.

Purmandal is a religious place situated at a distance of thirty nine Kms from Jammu and also connected with Samba via Purmandal-Utterbani-Vijaypur road. Purmandal is known as “Chotta Kashi”, having old Shiva temples which has significant religious importance and surrounded by the Shivalik Hills that possess a natural beauty and

Utterbani is another religious place situated on the bank of legendary Devika and is having centuries old temples located at a distance of five Kms from Purmandal.

The climate of the district being sub tropical zone is hot and dry in summer and cold in winter. Being in the foot hills of the mountains nights are bit cooler than that of neighboring areas of Punjab. The temperature ranges between 6 degree Celsius and 47 degree Celsius.

As per 2001 Census, the total population is 2.86 lakh, which includes 1.51 lakh male population and 1.35 lakh female populations in the district. This works out to be 2.80% of the total population of the state. The urban population is of 0.61 lac and the rural population figures at 2.25 lacs souls’ i.e. 79.00% of the population of the district. The density of the population is 303 per sq. km. The schedule castes represent 29% of the population while schedule tribes i. e. Gujjar and Bakerwals represent about 4% only of the total population of the District. The main stay of the population of the districts is agriculture and service in defense.

DISTRICT SAMBA AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Description	Unit	Reference period	Magnitude
1	Geographical Area	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.91
	Cultivated Area	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.36
	Area under Forest	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.01
	Net Area sown	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.39
	Gross area sown	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.71
	Net area irrigated	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.14
	Gross area irrigated	Lac Hect.	2007-08	0.14
2	Villages	Nos.	2007-08	382
	Inhabited	Nos.	2007-08	350
	Un-habited	Nos.	2007-08	32
	Urban Towns	Nos.	2001 Census	4
3	Blocks	Nos.	2001 Census	4

4	Patwar Halqas	Nos	2007-08	55
5	Tehsils	Nos	Samba (2007-08)	1
6	No of Panchayats	Nos	2007-08	99
7	Population as per Census 2001	lac souls	Census 2001	2.60
8	Density of Population per square Kilometer		Census 2001	319
9	Literacy rate	%age	Census 2001	76.00%
	Male			83.00%
	Female			72.00%
10	Number of workers	In lac	Census 2001	2.18
11	Number of Cultivators	In lac	Census 2001	1.47
12	Village electrified	Nos.	31-03-2008	372
13	Industries (Formal Units)	Nos.	31-03-2008	1373
14	Road length Maintained by PWD			
	Black topped	Kms.	31-03-2008	353.20
	Metalled	Kms.	31-03-2008	15.30
	Shingled	Kms.	31-03-2008	13.75
	Fair Weather	Kms.	31-03-2008	22.65
15	Villages covered with drinking water	Nos	31-03-2008	357
16	Health			
	District Hospital	Nos	31-03-2008	1
	Sub District Hospital	Nos	31-03-2008	1
	Primary Health Center	Nos	31-03-2008	12
	Sub-Centers	Nos	31-03-2008	72
	Allopathic dispensaries	Nos	31-03-2008	1
	Medical aid centers	Nos	31-03-2008	5
	Urban Health Unit	Nos	31-03-2008	0
	Mobile Medical Aid Centers	Nos	31-03-2008	0
	Sanct. Bed Strength Distt. Hospital	Nos	31-03-2008	30
17	Education			
	Higher Secondary Schools	Nos.	31-03-2008	31
	High Schools.	Nos.	31-03-2008	60
	Middle Schools	Nos.	31-03-2008	174
	Primary Schools	Nos.	31-03-2008	365
	Mobile Schools	Nos.	31-03-2008	3
	Seasonal Schools	Nos.	31-03-2008	0
	Mukhtabs	Nos.	31-03-2008	0
	Patashala	Nos.	31-03-2008	0
	EGS Centres	Nos.	31-03-2008	18

DISTRICT UDHAMPUR

With the existence of newly created Districts namely Reasi, Ramban & Samba, the District has been left with an area of 2496 SqKms. It accommodates a population of 4.61 lacs as per 2001 census. The density of population is 162 persons per SqKms against 100 for the state. It has 370 villages out of which 05 are uninhabited. The villages are grouped into 131 number of Panchayats, 07 community development

blocks, 4 Tehsils and 01 Sub Division namely Dudu Basantgarh, which has been declared the Bad Pockets. The climate of Udhampur varies according to altitude. The temperature rises sometimes as high as 42 degree centigrade and seldom goes below 1.5 centigrade in the high altitude areas.

The District mostly being hilly has very difficult terrain. It is estimated that 90% population is residing in rural areas & is mostly dependent on agricultural sector. The farmers have very small holdings ranging from 1 to 2 hectares and the cropping intensity is 164%. 0.03 Lac hectare area is irrigated which forms 6% of the total cultivable area. This tells that farming community is mostly dependent on rain for the cultivation of their 94% cultivable area. Balanced rains are hardly expected in any season. In case of less rains, drought like conditions are created whereas excessive rains cause flood havoc in the district. Most of the areas remain covered under snow for most of the time in a year thus depriving any activity in that very area. The lack of communication facilities in the hilly / non-accessible areas have led to the high cost of construction & execution of developmental Programmes. This all has affected the up-liftment of the public in the district.

Udhampur is situated in the southern part of the state. It has 04 tehsils viz. Udhampur, Ramnagar, Chenani and Gool Gulabgarh. Administrative headquarters are in Udhampur at a distance of 66 kms from Jammu on the National highway. Altitude varies from 600 to 3000 metres. The temperature rises to 42 degrees in summers and dips to 1.5 in winters. Most of the rainfall takes place in July, August and September. District is rich with mineral deposits like coal, bauxite, magnesite, gypsum and limestone. The most precious possession of Udhampur is the world famous Hindu shrine of Sri Mata Vaishno Devi located in sacred Trikuta hills. Over 4 million people annually visit the shrine. In the year 2002 as many as 5.4 million pilgrims visited the shrine, and in the first two month of 2003 alone the number of pilgrims was over 4.62 lakh. Udhampur also serves as the headquarters of Northern command of Army.

HISTORICAL PLACES AND MONUMENTS

Babore Temples: A very impressive site of Archaeological importance in the State. Ruins of temples exist in an area of 1 Km. It is around 50 Kms from Udhampur Dhar road near Manwal. These bear resemblance to the temples built by Lalitaditya, the ruler of Kashmir in the 8th Century A.D at Wangat in Kashmir. Only the ruins of 03 temples have been identified.

Krimchi Temples: These are in the village of Krimchi 1 the North-West of Udhampur town. These temples resemble in shape and pattern of Baijnath and Lingaraja temples at Bhubaneswar in Orissa having the images of Ganesh, Shiva, Trimurti and Vishnu.

Sheesh Mahal of Ramnagar: This palace was built by Raja Ram Singh in 1885 in Ramnagar. This palace of mirrors is decorated with profusely painted murals, paintings showing scenes from Ramayan, Mahabharat and battle scenes from Suchet Singh and Ram Singh's life.

Ramnagar Fort: Another historic building near Sheesh Mahal is Ramnagar fort overlooking Mansa Devi Nallah. This is a protected monument taken over by Archeological Survey of India in 1972.

Ghora Gali: It is a famous historic place situated aside Gool bazar. Stone carved horses with their riders, mini ponds built of carved stones and many more works of sculptures are the main attractions of this venue.

TOURIST PLACES

Patnitop-Mantalai: This is a trekker's paradise. Situated at a height of 7,000ft it is enveloped with rich flora and fauna. Patnitop is on Jammu Srinagar National highway and is well geared to the demand of increasing tourist traffic. It is a famous picnic spot. From Patnitop a gradual trail of 8 Kms brings you to Sudh Mahadev. From there 8 kms of further trek brings you to the enchanting hilly resort of Mantalai. Latti, Sansar and Naka Seoj Dhar the other are tourist places.

DISTRICT UDHAMPUR AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Item	Unit	Magnitude
1	Area	Hect	2496 Sqkms
2	Gross area irrigated	Hect	71000
3	Forests	SqKms	997.31
4	Population	Lakh souls	461350
5	Population density	Per SqKm	162
6	Villages	Nos	401 (03 un_Inhabitted)
7	Tehsils	Nos	4
8	Towns	Nos	3
9	Panchayats	Nos	205
	Patwar Halqas	Nos	75
10	Blocks	Nos	7
11	Educational Institutions	Nos	1207
12	Road length	Kms	717
13	Industrial units registered	Nos	2500
14	Villages electrified	Nos	568
15	Villages with portable water	Nos	609
16	Literacy rate	%age	54.16
17	Bank Branches	Nos	50
18	Principle crop	-	Maize

Statistical Information

Table No 1

District Wise distribution of Literacy rate of General Population										
S.No	District	Literacy rate of Sample Population of General Population								
		Rural			Urban			Total		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kashmir Region										
(A) Kashmir Division										
1	Anantnag	77.01	54.32	65.97	74.91	65.92	70.49	76.68	56.18	66.69
2	Bandipora	64.96	42.57	54.05	82.74	52.87	68.11	66.77	43.63	55.48
3	Baramulla	64.46	47.93	56.44	79.87	50.46	65.11	65.99	48.19	57.33
4	Budgam	59.16	41.18	50.48	72.88	50.95	62.39	62.10	43.24	53.01
5	Ganderbal	61.00	45.21	53.42	70.79	67.69	69.26	61.99	47.62	55.08
6	Kulgam	63.93	47.49	56.19	70.58	53.65	62.36	64.45	48.00	56.69
7	Kupwara	54.06	43.77	49.02	76.12	63.82	70.54	54.96	44.48	49.84
8	Pulwama	68.54	54.04	61.53	82.43	64.47	73.96	70.65	55.57	63.39
9	Shopian	80.00	51.36	66.06	83.50	67.21	75.42	80.58	54.07	67.63
10	Srinagar	73.88	63.22	68.71	82.17	68.57	75.64	81.34	68.03	74.94
Sub Total(A)		66.00	48.39	57.47	79.64	63.97	72.07	69.11	51.93	60.80
(B) Leh & Kargil										
11	Leh	70.43	64.91	67.86	90.90	77.67	84.75	74.30	67.31	71.05
12	Kargil	65.68	53.27	59.76	80.02	72.47	76.28	66.47	54.40	60.70
Sub Total		67.29	57.11	62.47	87.35	75.82	81.87	69.40	59.09	64.52
Total Kmr(A+B)Region		66.06	48.79	57.71	79.79	64.19	72.26	69.12	52.22	60.95
Jammu Region										
13	Doda	78.13	47.49	63.32	82.82	73.66	78.46	78.51	49.56	64.53
14	Jammu	84.66	79.83	82.39	89.53	80.47	85.25	85.79	79.98	83.06
15	Kathua	80.20	55.70	68.77	79.80	73.19	76.77	80.11	59.37	70.47
16	Kisthwar	72.91	50.37	62.04	80.30	64.09	72.02	73.18	50.94	62.43
17	Poonch	68.64	51.82	60.58	72.58	65.36	69.15	68.72	52.09	60.75
18	Ramban	75.06	55.31	65.75	83.25	75.66	79.56	75.54	56.58	66.58
19	Rajouri	62.04	29.76	46.13	79.16	73.32	76.27	62.74	31.57	47.37
20	Reasi	65.28	42.09	54.42	69.30	66.05	67.74	67.15	53.52	60.70
21	Samba	85.35	76.93	81.41	87.80	78.68	83.46	86.75	77.94	82.59
22	Udhampur	71.34	55.00	63.75	84.36	75.70	80.25	76.04	62.66	69.78
Total Jmu.Region		74.25	55.51	65.33	83.75	75.64	79.91	75.88	58.94	67.83
Total J&K State		70.07	52.02	61.41	81.41	68.78	75.36	72.32	55.35	64.18

Source: BPL Survey 2007-08

Table No2
Socio-Economic Indicators of J&K in comparison with All India

S. No	Indicator	Unit	J & K		All India	
			Ref. Year	Magnitude	Ref. Year	Magnitude
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Density	Persons Per Sq.Km	2001	100	2001	325
2	Percentage of Urban Population	%age	2001	24.81	2001	27.82
3	Decadal Population Growth	%age	1991-2001	29.98	1991-2001	21.53
4	BPL Population #	%age	2004	5.4	2004	27.5
5	Sex Ratio	Females per 1000 of males	2001 2004 2006	892 923(a) 925(b)	2001	933
6	Average house holdsize	Nos	2001	6.5	2001	5.4
7	Households having safe drinking water facility	%age	2001	65.2	2001	77.9
8	Birth rate	No per milli	2005	18.9	2005	23.8
9	Death rate	No per milli	2005	5.5	2005	7.6
10	Infant mortality rate	No per 1000 Live Births	2005	50	2005	58
11	Natural Growth Rate	Per milli	2005	13.4	2005	16.3
12	Hospitals and Dispensaries per lakh of population	No.	2006-07	6.63	2004	2.57
13	Hospitals and Dispensaries per 100 sq km of area	No.	2006-07	0.78	2004	0.87
14	Literacy rate	%age	2001 2004	55.52 65.3(a)	2001	64.84
15	Male literacy rate	%age	2001	66.60	2001	75.26
16	Female literacy rate	%age	2001	43.00	2001	53.67
17	Drop out rate (i-x classes)	%age	2004-05	53.75	2004-05	61.92
18	Pupil Teacher Ratio (Primary)	No per Teacher	2004-05	34	2004-05	46
19	Pupil Teacher Ratio (upper Primary)	No per Teacher	2004-05	16	2004-05	35
20	Gross enrolment ratio in classes (I-VIII) 6-14 years	%age	2004-05	74.45	2004-05	94.23
21	Un-employment rate\$	%age	2004	4.21	2004	3.09
22	Workers as %age of Total Population	%age	2001	37.01	2001	39.10
23	Average holding size	Hectares	2000-01 Agri.census	0.66	2000-01 (Agri.census)	1.32
24	Gross area irrigated as %age of gross area sown	%age	2006-07	40.73	2003-04	40.30*
25	Net area irrigated as %age of net area sown	%age	2006-07	41.73	2003-04	39.11*
26	Live Stock per 100 of human beings	Nos	2003	93	2003	45

27	Average Livestock per household	Nos	2003	6.38	2003	2.53
28	Forest area as %age of geographical area	%age	2001	19.95	2001	24.27
29	Road length per 100 sq. Km of area	Kms.	2005-06	35.71	2006-07	105.48
30	Vehicles per lakh of population	No	March,2007	4804	March 2004	6739
31	Vehicles per 100 Sq. Km of area	No	March,2007	563	March 2004	2697
32	Telephone connections per 100 of population	No	Oct., 2007	17.22*	Dec. 2006	16.81
33	No. of Post offices per lakh of population	No	2006-07	14	2005-06	14
34	Bank offices per 100 Sq. Km of area	No	June-2007	0.86	June-2007	2.26
35	Average population per bank office	(000) Nos	June-2007	13	June-2007	16
36	Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR)	%age	June,2007	48.86	June,2007	71.80
37	Enterprises	Nos	2005 E C	323908*	2005E C	42123849*
38	Total Employment in Enterprises	Nos	2005 E C	751525*	2005 E C	98967642*
39	Annual Average Growth in Enterprises	%age	2005 Over 1998 EC	6.03	2005 Over 1998 EC	4.80
40	Annual Average Growth rate in employment	%age	2005 Over1998E C	6.82	2005 Over1998 EC	2.49
41	Per capita GDP at current prices	Rs	2006-07 (A)	26384	2006-07 (A)	36288
42	Plan Expenditure per capita	Rs.	2006-07	3662.00 (.)	2006-07	3905(αα)
<p>Note: i) All indicators linked with area indicate position on the area of this side of control line. ii) Decadal population growth regarding J & K is on 1991 estimated population. (a)= Indicates sex ratio and Literacy rate as per socio-economic survey conducted under 60th N.S.S round (January 2004 to June 2004) (b)= Indicates sex ratio assessed by the sex ratio survey conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics(J&K) in 2006</p> <p># = Estimates of Planning Commission, G O I, \$ = estimated on the basis of 60th NSS round , * = Indicates Provisional, A = Advanced Estimates, (.) = Indicates position on anticipated expenditure, EC = Economic Census (αα) = Indicates per capita plan outlay,</p>						

Table No 3**District Wise list of Main Towns of Kashmir Province and their distance from Capital (Srinagar)**

S.No	District	Town	Distance from Srinagar in Kms
1	Srinagar	-	0
2	Budgam	Chadoora	15
		Chari-shrief	30
		Nagam	18
		Nowgam	7
		Beeru	30
		Magam	21
		Khansahib	30
		Khag	36
		Budgam	14
3	Ganderbal	Kangan	40
		Ganderbal	22
4	Baramulla	Baramulla	55
		Sopore	50
		Pattan	28
		Uri	103
		Tangmarg	38
5	Kupwara	Handwara	78
		Tangdar	178
		Kupwara	92
		Trehgam	98
6	Bandipora	Bandipora	42
7	Anantnag	Khanabal	55
		Pahalgam	95

		Qazigund	78
		Verinag	80
		Dooru	75
		Bijbehara	40
		Ashmuqam	75
		Mattan	65
		Serigufwara	65
		Damhal Hangipora	87
		Redwani	60
		Arwani	52
		Manzgam	80
		Kokernag	77
		Vailoo	85
		Achabal	62
		Shangus	69
8	Shopian	Shopian	52
9	Pulwama	Pulwama	38
		Tral	39
		Kakapora	22
		Awntipora	27
		Pampore	15
10	Kulgam	Kulgam	75
		Frisal	60
		Yaripora	62
		Tsimer	92

Table No 4
District Wise list of Main Towns of Jammu Province and their distance from Capital (Jammu)

S.No	District	Town	Distance from Jammu in Kms
1	Jammu	Nagrota	15
		Akhnoor	30
		R.S.Pora	22
		Bisnah	20
		Bari Brahmana	15
2	Samba	Samba	40
3	Kathua	Kathua	85
		Hiranagar	65
		Billawar	150
		Basoli	185
4	Udhampur	Udhampur	66
		Ramnagar	104
		Chenani	94
5	Reasi	Reasi	73
		Katra	45
6	Rajouri	Rajouri	160
		Nowshera	110
		Sunderbani	80
		Kalakote	110
		Budhal	220
		Kotramka	200

		Thanamandi	180
		Darhal	180
7	Poonch	Poonch	250
		Mandi	270
		Surankote	215
		Mendhar	215
8	Doda	Doda	185
		Bhaderwah	210
		Gandoh	230
9	Kishtwar	Kishtwar	240
10	Ramban	Ramban	150
		Batote	122
		Banihal	200

Table No 5
Coordinates of District Headquarters of J&K State

S.No	District	Latitude N	Longitude E
1	Jammu	32°43'15"	74°51'42"
2	Kathua	32°22'16"	75°31'26"
3	Udhampur	32°55'22"	75°08'05"
4	Ramban	33°14'30"	75°14'25"
5	Doda	33°08'30"	75°32'38"
6	Kishtwar	33°18'43"	75°45'54"
7	Reasi	33°04'53"	74°50'02"
8	Samba	32°38'08"	74°53'47"
9	Poonch	33°40'03"	74°05'28"
10	Rajouri	33°22'16"	74°18'17"
11	Kargil	34°33'34"	76°07'32"
12	Leh	34°09'53"	77°35'01"
13	Anantnag	33°43'49"	75°09'01"
14	Budgam	34°00'54"	74°43'11"
15	Shopian	33°42'58"	74°53'56"
16	Pulwama	33°52'29"	74°49'56"
17	Srinagar	34°04'24"	74°48'49"
18	Ganderbal	34°13'01"	74°46'50"
19	Bandipora	34°25'08"	74°38'16"
20	Baramulla	34°12'36"	74°20'19"
21	Kupwara	34°31'31"	74°15'36"
22	Kulgam	33°33'35"	75°01'03"

Source:- Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing Deptt. Bemina Sgr.

Table No 6**METEOROLOGICAL DATA**

STATION : G U L M A R G . (J & K STATE)

MONTH & YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	01.7	-07.3	072	067	31.6/06
FEBRUARY	00.9	-05.6	084	079	189.2/17
MARCH	04.6	-03.6	080	071	245.9/11
APRIL	16.9	05.8	059	051	45.4/07
MAY	17.3	07.5	078	070	115.9/18
JUNE	20.0	10.9	075	070	108.7/16
JULY	20.7	12.2	082	077	59.3/10
AUGUST	21.0	12.2	081	073	50.1/09
SEPTEMBER	18.3	09.3	073	061	37.5/09
OCTOBER	12.5	04.4	046	044	00.0
NOVEMBER	13.1	02.3	045	043	00.0
DECEMBER	02.8	-05.7	067	069	54.2/08

STATION : SRINAGAR . (J & K STATE)

MONTH & YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	10.0	-02.5	090	054	08.1/03
FEBRUARY	12.0	02.9	087	060	52.6/16
MARCH	14.7	03.0	077	052	210.3/09
APRIL	25.6	08.9	060	034	01.5/01
MAY	25.5	11.9	071	047	46.2/08
JUNE	27.8	16.0	077	050	50.9/10
JULY	29.8	17.8	075	055	54.9/09
AUGUST	30.1	17.8	077	052	47.4/05
SEPTEMBER	27.3	13.3	077	052	14.0/04
OCTOBER	24.1	03.9	068	042	00.0
NOVEMBER	17.1	-01.1	081	053	00.0
DECEMBER	09.9	-02.0	087	065	15.9/03

STATION : K U P W A R A . (J & K STATE)

MONTH & YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°Celsius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (° Celsius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	10.1	-03.3	093	078	09.7/03
FEBRUARY	11.1	02.0	093	080	96.0/16
MARCH	13.7	01.5	092	077	206.8/12
APRIL	26.2	06.5	087	060	26.1/07
MAY	25.9	10.5	085	061	51.0/08
JUNE	28.9	13.6	085	062	100.1/11
JULY	31.0	16.3	085	053	79.1/10
AUGUST	30.7	16.1	088	060	41.5/06
SEPTEMBER	28.8	13.0	089	068	10.5/03
OCTOBER	24.5	03.1	091	064	01.8/01
NOVEMBER	17.6	-02.6	087	059	00.0
DECEMBER	09.2	-03.1	091	071	31.6/07

STATION : Q A Z I G U N D . (J & K STATE)

MONTH YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	09.1	-03.4	083	055	42.8/04
FEBRUARY	11.1	02.0	090	059	57.0/11
MARCH	14.4	01.9	078	054	355.0/09
APRIL	24.8	06.7	055	036	07.0/02
MAY	24.5	10.0	069	055	94.0/09
JUNE	27.7	14.4	070	054	74.1/07
JULY	27.7	15.9	080	061	57.9/11
AUGUST	28.1	15.5	078	063	88.4/06
SEPTEMBER	26.1	11.5	079	057	26.8/06
OCTOBER	23.4	02.7	055	031	00.2/01
NOVEMBER	18.1	-01.8	068	038	00.0
DECEMBER	09.8	-02.9	086	057	76.6/05

STATION : PAHALGAM. (J & K STATE)

MONTH YEAR	& MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	07.4	-05.7	089	075	17.9/04
FEBRUARY	08.6	-01.2	091	075	96.2/15
MARCH	11.6	-01.5	085	069	328.4/11
APRIL	22.2	04.0	060	045	14.8/04
MAY	22.0	06.7	071	054	56.8/12
JUNE	25.1	10.7	076	054	124.9/14
JULY	25.2	13.0	083	062	72.3/11
AUGUST	25.2	13.5	085	063	107.9/12
SEPTEMBER	23.7	09.7	082	061	62.1/11
OCTOBER	21.4	01.9	073	036	01.8/01
NOVEMBER	15.9	-02.1	072	046	00.0
DECEMBER	07.7	-04.8	088	075	38.1/05

STATION : K O K E R N A G . (J & K S T A T E)

MONTH & YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	07.9	-02.4	084	077	15.7/03
FEBRUARY	09.7	02.6	081	073	63.7/13
MARCH	13.3	02.7	076	070	239.5/10
APRIL	24.5	08.3	056	047	08.4/01
MAY	23.4	10.7	064	058	60.6/11
JUNE	26.7	12.7	068	059	74.3/11
JULY	27.3	15.6	074	067	59.3/11
AUGUST	27.3	15.1	073	068	47.1/06
SEPTEMBER	25.3	12.8	077	063	66.4/06
OCTOBER	22.4	06.0	061	039	00.0
NOVEMBER	15.5	-01.1	071	065	00.0
DECEMBER	07.8	-03.2	077	076	78.0/04

STATION : J A M M U . (J & K STATE)

MONTH YEAR	& MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
APRIL	34.6	20.6	045	028	11.8/01
JANUARY, 2007	20.5	06.7	083	063	00.0
FEBRUARY	20.6	10.7	086	072	110.7/11
MARCH	25.9	13.1	077	061	295.4/07
APRIL	35.8	20.7	057	041	03.2/02
MAY	37.1	23.6	052	040	41.1/06
JUNE	37.5	25.8	064	051	145.1/10
JULY	34.4	24.6	085	070	304.6/14
AUGUST	33.8	24.7	088	075	319.5/16
SEPTEMBER	33.4	23.0	085	072	57.4/04
OCTOBER	32.1	16.7	071	057	00.0
NOVEMBER	26.8	13.0	075	068	07.6/01
DECEMBER	21.2	07.6	068	081	09.5/04

STATION : BHADERWAH. (J & K STATE)

MONTH & YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (° Celsius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (° Celsius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	14.6	-01.0	071	048	02.6/01
FEBRUARY	13.7	02.1	084	066	136.0/13
MARCH	17.7	03.4	078	055	294.0/11
APRIL	23.7	09.6	065	040	20.6/04
MAY	26.9	11.4	072	051	55.7/11
JUNE	32.0	15.9	070	048	98.5/06
JULY	29.7	18.3	083	063	91.0/10
AUGUST	29.7	17.9	085	066	85.5/10
SEPTEMBER	28.3	14.1	081	058	36.8/05
OCTOBER	26.1	06.7	065	032	02.4/01
NOVEMBER	14.4	04.2	051	039	00.0
DECEMBER	12.1	00.4	072	059	95.7/05

STATION : B A T O T E . (J & K S T A T E)

MONTH YEAR	& MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	13.0	02.2	060	046	02.4/01
FEBRUARY	11.8	04.1	079	074	218.4/12
MARCH	15.8	06.2	063	063	365.4/08
APRIL	26.2	13.4	050	044	00.8/01
MAY	26.4	14.4	058	047	51.2/07
JUNE	28.1	18.7	059	055	59.0/06
JULY	26.6	18.6	077	071	113.6/09
AUGUST	26.4	19.2	081	078	129.4/08
SEPTEMBER	26.2	16.6	073	071	14.4/04
OCTOBER	24.2	11.1	043	044	00.0
NOVEMBER	19.4	07.9	041	041	00.0
DECEMBER	12.3	03.3	059	049	69.4/06

STATION : BANIHAL . (J & K STATE)

MONTH YEAR	& MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	13.0	00.7	066	043	08.6/02
FEBRUARY	13.2	03.7	081	061	186.4/11
MARCH	16.5	04.3	070	055	428.2/12
	27.6	10.1	053	042	20.6/04
MAY	26.7	12.5	067	053	80.6/10
JUNE	29.2	16.3	071	056	43.3/06
JULY	29.4	18.1	082	061	61.3/06
AUGUST	27.9	17.9	086	064	87.0/05
SEPTEMBER	27.0	13.7	082	057	35.4/05
OCTOBER	24.3	05.7	064	030	00.2/01
NOVEMBER	20.4	03.0	057	035	00.0
DECEMBER	12.6	00.0	071	049	86.8/06

STATION : K A T R A . (J & K S T A T E)

MONTH YEAR	& MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (^o Celesius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	18.2	06.8	065	059	00.7/01
FEBRUARY	17.7	09.2	080	076	161.9/12
MARCH	22.5	11.7	064	060	474.1/08
APRIL	32.5	19.3	044	037	02.7/01
MAY	33.2	21.1	050	040	99.1/06
JUNE	33.9	23.1	059	055	388.9/13
JULY	31.1	22.6	081	076	204.9/15
AUGUST	30.2	22.5	087	081	800.1/19
SEPTEMBER	29.4	20.4	082	074	120.9/08
OCTOBER	28.3	15.1	063	055	00.6/01
NOVEMBER	23.6	11.7	062	064	08.4/01
DECEMBER	18.2	07.7	062	063	20.9/04

STATION : KATHUA . (J & K STATE)

MONTH & YEAR	MONTHS MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (° Celsius)	MONTHS MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (° Celsius)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 0830 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 1730 HOURS I.S.T. (%)	MONTHS TOTAL PRECIPITATION & NO. OF RAINY DAYS (Millimeters)
JANUARY, 2007	19.9	03.9	084	-	00.0
FEBRUARY	21.2	08.9	086	-	84.8/10
MARCH	25.5	11.2	075	-	188.4/09
APRIL	36.0	18.6	058	-	00.0
MAY	36.9	21.4	052	-	51.0/08
JUNE	37.2	23.4	063	-	367.0/11
JULY	34.5	23.2	083	-	438.4/15
AUGUST	33.8	23.0	087	-	717.2/19
SEPTEMBER	33.5	21.7	082	-	16.2/02
OCTOBER	32.2	13.4	066	-	00.0
NOVEMBER	27.1	09.5	084	-	03.2/01
DECEMBER	20.4	04.5	088	-	30.2/06

Note : Relative Humidity at 1730 hours I.S.T. is not available as the station is recording weather at 0830 hours I.S.T only.
Source: Metrological Centre, Rambagh, Srinagar

Table No 7**DISTRICT WISE NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN THE STATE OF J&K**

(As on March 31, 2008)

S.No	District Name	No. of Branches
1	Anantnag	63
2	Badgam	35
3	Bandipora	17
4	Baramulla	90
5	Doda	20
6	Ganderbal	22
7	Jammu	197
8	Kargil	10
9	Kathua	52
10	Kishtwar	8
11	Kulgam	26
12	Kupwara	43
13	Leh	16
14	Poonch	21
15	Pulwama	35
16	Rajouri	41
17	Ramban	16
18	Reasi	21
19	Samba	26
20	Shopian	16
21	Srinagar	152
22	Udhampur	39
	State Total	966

Source: Reserve Bank of India (Banking Statistics Division)

Table No 8

DISTRICT AND BANK GROUP-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF REPORTING OFFICES, AGGREGATE DEPOSITS AND GROSS BANK CREDIT OF ALL SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS-MARCH 2008 (Amount in crore)

REGION / STATE / DISTRICT	STATE BANK OF INDIA & ITS ASSOCIATES			NATIONALISED BANKS			FOREIGN BANKS		
	OFFICES	DEPOSITS	CREDIT	OFFICES	DEPOSITS	CREDIT	OFFICES	DEPOSITS	CREDIT
Jammu & Kashmir	134	4256	1371	155	3745	1737	-	-	-
1 Anantnag	5	98	27	5	58	21	-	-	-
2 Badgam	4	63	14	1	3	1	-	-	-
3 Bandipora	2	40	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Baramulla	8	177	43	7	54	22	-	-	-
5 Doda	7	141	37	1	21	4	-	-	-
6 Ganderbal	2	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Jammu	26	1533	611	72	2349	1136	-	-	-
8 Kargil	5	96	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Kathua	8	220	67	9	153	58	-	-	-
10 Kishtwar	1	54	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 Kulgam	2	9	4	3	14	7	-	-	-
12 Kupwara	4	60	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Leh	4	266	38	1	16	2	-	-	-
14 Poonch	2	148	18	1	32	4	-	-	-
15 Pulwama	4	53	22	1	14	7	-	-	-
16 Rajouri	5	205	22	1	28	12	-	-	-
17 Ramban	4	58	24	3	26	5	-	-	-
18 Reasi	6	88	40	4	89	17	-	-	-
19 Samba	5	178	80	4	101	61	-	-	-
20 Shopian	1	15	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Srinagar	20	462	173	33	620	340	-	-	-
22 Udhampur	9	278	80	9	169	40	-	-	-

REGION / STATE / DISTRICT	REGIONAL RURAL BANK			OTHER SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS			ALL SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS		
	OFFICES	DEPOSITS	CREDIT	OFFICES	DEPOSITS	CREDIT	OFFICES	DEPOSITS	CREDIT
Jammu & Kashmir	239	1293	432	386	15853	8551	914	25148	12090
1 Anantnag	13	43	15	35	947	395	58	1147	458
2 Badgam	7	25	6	17	438	213	29	529	234
3 Bandipora	7	26	10	7	135	82	16	200	100
4 Baramulla	44	193	80	26	712	412	85	1135	556
5 Doda	-	-	-	10	280	47	18	441	88
6 Ganderbal	8	24	6	8	217	108	18	255	122
7 Jammu	43	382	134	49	3548	1069	190	7812	2950
8 Kargil	-	-	-	5	177	19	10	274	32
9 Kathua	14	122	41	20	453	216	51	948	381
10 Kishtwar	-	-	-	7	163	29	8	217	39
11 Kulgam	8	17	6	12	254	106	25	294	122
12 Kupwara	23	101	27	14	313	134	41	473	182
13 Leh	-	-	-	11	249	58	16	531	98
14 Poonch	8	43	12	9	241	75	20	464	109
15 Pulwama	11	28	9	16	553	237	32	649	275
16 Rajouri	19	103	25	14	352	125	39	688	184
17 Ramban	-	-	-	9	201	36	16	284	65
18 Reasi	2	10	5	8	215	51	20	402	112
19 Samba	11	96	27	6	231	210	26	605	378
20 Shopian	1	1	1	10	223	122	12	239	131
21 Srinagar	15	63	23	78	5586	4716	146	6731	5253
22 Udhampur	5	17	7	15	366	91	38	830	219

Source: Reserve Bank of India (Banking Statistics Division)

Table No 9
DISTRICTS OF J & K STATE AT A GLANCE 2007-08

S.No	Districts	Geographical Area (2001 Census)	Population (2001 Census) Lac Souls	Projected Population 2007(Lac Souls)	No. of Tehsils	No. of Blocks
1	Anantnag	2917 Sqkm	7.40	8.66	6	7
2	Badgam	1317 Sqkms	6.05	7.08	3	8
3	Bandipora	398 Sqkms	3.52	4.12	3	4
4	Baramulla	4190 Sqkms	8.11	9.49	8	12
5	Doda	4500 Sqkms	3.20	3.74	4	8
6	Ganderbal	1045 SqKms(P)	2.12	2.49	3	4
7	Jammu	2184 Sqkms	13.43	15.72	4	8
8	Kargil	14036 Sqkms	1.19	1.39	2	7
9	Kathua	2502 Sqkms	5.34	6.26	5	9
10	Kishtwar	7737 Sqkms	1.90	2.23	4	8
11	Kulgam	1067 Sqkms	4.32	5.05	3	4+2(Partly)
12	Kupwara	2379 Sqkms	6.50	7.61	3	11
13	Leh	45100 Sqkms	1.17	1.37	3	9
14	Poonch	1150 Sqkms	3.72	4.36	4	6
15	Pulwama	1090 Sqkms	4.41	5.16	4	5
16	Rajouri	2630 Sqkms	4.83	5.65	7	8
17	Ramban	1345 Sqkms	2.14	2.51	2	4
18	Reasi	1700 Sqkms	2.47	2.89	2	4
19	Samba	910 SqKms	2.60	3.04	1	4
20	Shopian	307 SqKms	2.11	2.47	1	1
21	Srinagar	1183 Sqkms	10.19	11.93	2	2
22	Udhampur	2496 Sqkms	4.16	5.40	4	7
Total J&k State		101387	101.43	118.72	71	141

